

ANSI/BHMA A156.28-2000



AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD
FOR
RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR KEYING SYSTEMS



SPONSOR
BUILDERS HARDWARE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FOREWORD (This Foreword is not a part of ANSI/BHMA A156.28)

The general classification of builders hardware includes a wide variety of items which are divided into several categories. To recognize this diversity, a sectional classification system has been established. Auxiliary Locks and Associated Products is one such section and this Standard is the result of the collective efforts of members of the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association, Inc. who manufacture these products. The total Product Standards effort is therefore a collection of sections, each covering a specific category of items.

This Standard Practice is not intended to obstruct but rather to encourage the development of improved products, methods and materials. The BHMA recognizes that errors will be found, items will become obsolete, and new products and methods will be developed. With this in mind, the Association will update, correct and revise these Standards on a regular basis. It shall also be the responsibility of manufacturers to request such appropriate revisions.

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1. SCOPE

The scope of this recommended practice is limited to mechanical key biting, cylinder pinning and multiplex key systems.

The purpose of this document is to recommend the approach to selecting the optimal keying system, once the type of cylinder has been selected by other criteria.

This recommended practice is not intended to provide sufficient information for a full understanding of master key systems.

Various types of cylinders have varying levels of security and performance to which other standards may apply. These include ANSI and Underwriters Laboratories standards.

2. GENERAL

Master keying is the process of combining (or programming) a group of locks or cylinders, so that each is operated by its own change key as well as by a master key for the entire group. This process increases convenience but has two negative effects on the lock or cylinder:

1) Master keying decreases the security of the cylinder by making it easier to pick and by increasing the number of keys which operate it.

2) In the most common cylinder mechanisms, master keying may make the cylinder more susceptible to mechanical failure by adding more moving parts.

3. **DEFINITIONS.** The following definitions are taken from The Professional Glossary of Terms Relating to Cylinders, Keys and Master Keying, copyright 1982 – 1998 by the Lock Industry Standards and Training (LIST) Council and the ALOA Sponsored National Task Group for Certified Training Programs.

3.1 **Bow** - The portion of a key which serves as a grip or handle.

3.2 **Change Key** - A key which operates only one cylinder or one group of keyed alike cylinders in a keying system.

3.3 **Concealed Key Control (CKC)** - A specification that all lock cylinders be marked with standard keying symbols in a location which is concealed while the cylinder is installed.

3.4 **Combinate** - To set a combination in a lock, cylinder or key.

3.5 **Construction Core** - An interchangeable or removable core designed for use during the construction phase of a building. The cores are normally keyed alike and, upon completion of construction, they are to be replaced by the permanent system's cores.

3.6 **Construction Master Key** - A key normally used by construction personnel for a temporary period during building construction. It may be rendered permanently inoperative without disassembling the cylinder.

3.7 **Cross Keying** - The deliberate process of combining a cylinder (usually in a master key system) to two or more different keys which would not normally be expected to operate together.

3.8 **Declining Step Key** - A key whose cuts are progressively deeper from bow to tip.