

Innovative keypad

Site safety continues to be a major challenge and frustration in the earthmoving industry, with 39 construction fatalities reported in 2010/11 in Australia alone.

Although accidents caused through sheer negligence are rare, operator complacency and inattention are issues requiring more support. When it comes to operating quick-hitch couplers, safety is paramount, therefore innovative systems such as the Snaplock+ Keypad is the type of workable solution the industry seeks.

Developed by Doherty Couplers and Attachments, the Snaplock+ Keypad is designed to replace the traditional 'missile' style or toggle switch, the digitally-operated keypad lock/unlock system eliminates the possibility of knocking the release switch accidentally.

"The unique keypad has a four-digit code locking system which prevents this accidental activation," says managing director, Jeremy Doherty. "We've also incorporated the ability to have unique codes for each operator for added security. Once in use, the Keypad runs a self-check on start-up, and a warning buzzer and flashing light activates when in unlock mode."

Based in New Zealand with a wholly-owned subsidiary in Australia, Doherty is one of the few manufacturers globally to offer quick couplers as fully compliant to Australian standard AS4772-208, European EN474 standard, expecting forthcoming ISO international standards and all major contractor policies. The Snaplock+ coupler feature is its dual pin locking (DPL) system ensuring attachments remain securely engaged on both pins in the event of loss of engagement force. A system further enhanced with the addition of the Keypad control.

With safety being a top priority for this world-leading earthmoving equipment manufacturer, Doherty has also recommended a safety operating system with the Keypad, which can be easily incorporated into a business's existing health and safety procedures.

"The manual provided with the Snaplock+ Keypad is suitable for incorporating into any standard safety systems," says Doherty. "We recommend a unique locking code only be supplied once the manual is read and signed off by the operator."

The fact the Snaplock+ Keypad is inexpensive and suitable for retrofitting to any electrically-switched coupler makes the decision even easier for earthmoving businesses. ■

For more information contact Jeremy Doherty on (NZ) +64 21 993 003 or (AUS) 1800 057 021, or email jeremy@dohertydirect.net



The keypad prevents accidental release



Orange light flashing = Unlocked



SEE THE VIDEO HERE

A code needs to be entered to release or engage the hydraulic hitch



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