



Wesko Locks brings Tech to Staid Corner of the Industry

Rob Kirkbride

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DRAWER LOCKS, ANTI-TIPPING AND “TECHNOLOGY” ARE WORDS that don’t often go together. The standard office drawer lock has been around for decades with little about the parts changing during that time. But Wesko Locks has a new all-in-one locking and anti-tipping system for wood furniture manufacturers that greatly reduces installation time and has the potential to save manufacturers quite a bit of money.

The innovation in the new All-In-One Anti-Tipping and Locking System comes from the consolidation of both features into one bar.

“Most systems in use today are very old designs with independent systems for anti-tip and locking,” said Tony Sabelli, vice president of engineering. “Our product is the next evolution in design, no complicated wedges or flipper systems for anti-tipping. Our new system comes



pre-assembled to customer specification and is installed in a single channel. Office furniture manufacturers can save weight, installation time and cost.”

The combination of zinc and polycarbonate parts mounted in an aluminum extrusion produces a lightweight yet durable product that exceeds BIFMA requirements. Wesko guarantees parts for the life of the furniture. It is easy to install as well. The fully-assembled system is set in place in a single, routed channel which is held in place by the slides. The system does not use side pins. Side pins are typically installed on the drawer box and require adjustment for alignment.

“What’s really exciting about this design is that the slide triggers the anti-tip mechanism and the system cannot be reset or overridden while the drawer is open. The system works with standard telescopic slides from any manufacturer. It’s lightweight, easy to install and the slides actually hold the system in place,” said John McLeod, vice president of sales.

Wesko has produced lock bars and anti-tipping mechanisms for quite some time, he said, but every office furniture manufacturer wants to save money. Anytime Wesko can offer a less expensive product or one that saves installation time, it sells. Saving installation time was the genesis of the new product.

It is a testament to good engineering and design as well — taking a fairly complicated process and making it appear easy, look good and function exactly the way it should. “We are really pleased with this product,” McLeod said. “It saves customer installation time, predominantly when it is installed in the field. You just stick it in and go. Typically today, you have products out there

with drawer pins or plastic wedges on the side of the drawer. It is a complicated, time-consuming alignment system. This new product is fast to install.”

At the same time, the mechanism had to be as durable as the drawer slides. When the BIFMA testing is done, it is on the drawer slides, so the Wesko mechanism has to hold its own as well and it does, he said.

The new components are available now. Wesko also manufactures companion products, including: Central lock assembly for gang lateral locking which is spring-loaded and easily installed; companion lockbar for double sided locking; and a wide variety of front mounted locks and finishes.

Wesko has more than 100 customers in North America, the United Kingdom and Europe including Knoll, Teknion, Inscape and KI, to name just a few. In addition to the office furniture and wood furniture industries, Wesko also provides locks for displays and point of sale cabinets, lockers and storage, gaming and vending equipment, electronic, fire and security enclosures, van and truck storage, cash registers and metal fabrication.

Wesko says its strength is in its people and the knowledge gained from many years of working with its customers. Wesko’s quality, service and turnaround times are the highest ranked in the global industry. Wesko has manufacturing facilities in Toronto, Canada as well as offshore manufacturing facilities. By combining offshore manufacturing with its local facilities, Wesko provides customers with benefits such as: fast turnaround for specialty items including keying and finishes; local inventory management; local quality assurance; and alternate product sourcing. 