



SPECIALIZING IN MASTERKEYED LOCKING SYSTEMS

MANUFACTURED BY



## BEST LOCK CORPORATION

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 50444  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46250  
TELEPHONE: (317) 849-2250

August 4, 1995

To Our Valued Customers:

This letter is to inform you of a decision made on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 1995 in the U.S. District Court in Indianapolis regarding Best Lock's Patented Keying System (PKS). The Court ruled the design and utility patents at issue in the case invalid.

As you know, Best Lock filed suit in August 1993 against Ilco Unican Corp. when Ilco began manufacturing and distributing key blanks for PKS. We had anticipated that someone like Ilco would test these patents for others in the "knock-off" industry, so we were prepared. Best Lock had vowed that we would take all the steps necessary to assure that our customers would be able to maintain the level of security they need by continuously guarding against unauthorized key duplication. When that challenge came from Ilco, we pursued litigation.

What you, as a Customer, need to know is that Best Lock still has a PKS Utility Patent (U.S. Patent Number 5,272,895) that was issued by the Patent Office during the trial which was not litigated and is still valid.

This means that your PKS key blanks still cannot be made, used or sold by other than Best Lock or its authorized representatives without that person becoming an infringer.

Best Lock is disappointed with the Court's ruling, disagrees with the ruling and intends to consider every option, including: additional patents, further litigation and appeal of the ruling to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in Washington D.C. The appeal process could take several months or more.

Best Lock will continue to pursue patents that will allow our Customers to utilize the products that meet their security needs. We appreciate your support and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this issue. Please feel free to contact your local Best Lock Factory Representative or call our Legal Dept. at 317/849-2250.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Russell C. Best  
President and CEO