

II. Core Goals of a Key Control Program

There are simple lock & key installations and there are very large ones, requiring a significant amount of organization and documentation. Throughout this book, I will give examples that relate to *moderate*-sized programs; giving you exposure to many considerations.

While selecting and installing locks and keys may differ from a 500 sq. ft. building to a 1.2 MM sq. ft. building, the steps for maintaining and managing key controls are the same. Developing a key control program that scales from project to project is paramount.

We can all agree that there are different risk factors associated with different buildings or facilities. For example, building key controls for a structure that has four exterior doors and is used for storing low cost packing materials would be considered Low Risk. In comparison, a building that is used 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, as living quarters for people, would clearly be High Risk. A failure in maintaining strong key and access controls in this or any High Risk environment could result in personal injury or death of human lives.

There are other factors to consider as you build your key control program. How complex will your access map be? A simple access map might have a GM (Grand Master), Master (M), Sub-Master (Change Key) and of course, the door key. Each level of access (Grand Master, Master, Change Key) can be considered a “break”. In this scenario, the lock system has 3 breaks (not including the individual door key). The more breaks you build into a lock system, the weaker the system becomes. I’ve been told 4 breaks is a good rule whenever possible. I