Keeping Stores Safe

WHEN A MAJOR PIZZA CHAIN needed a safe that allowed cashiers to deposit money into one compartment and to get in and out of another compartment to make change and get rolled coins, Kaba Mas was able to come up with a locking solution that not only controlled access to the needed compartments, but also offered auditing of any users in and out of the safe. “What we came up with was the Smart series product line,” says Orlando Consalvi, national sales manager at Kaba Mas. “It allows multiple users to be enrolled—up to 99, and the managers can add or delete users as staff comes and goes from the payroll.”

Smart series units allow one keypad to have control of as many as five doors and set different permissions for different doors within the safe. The Time Delay feature, available on all Smart series products, has proven to be an effective theft deterrent, says Consalvi. Time delays, the ability to delay the opening of the safe for up to 99 minutes, can be set for different times on different compartments, giving restaurants more flexibility and control over the transfer of cash. Another layer of protection Smart series offers is its time lock—once the restaurant closes for the evening, the lock cannot be opened until the next pre-programmed time.

Of course that’s not all. Smart series provides audits of who opened the safe and when. A store manager or owner can know who has gone into the safe, when the safe was opened, and when it was locked again.

The conundrum in safety and safe protection comes when companies invest in safety systems only after they have been robbed. Consalvi had one client who wouldn’t put systems in place until a store was deemed “high risk.” A store wasn’t high risk until it had been robbed.

Stores will need to weigh the cost of the Smart series units versus their losses, which in some stores are considerable. Of course, Kaba offers a variety of locking options for price points and with varied features sets.

But losses due to theft are far more costly than any lock selected. Industry statistics estimate as much as $3 billion goes missing due to “shrinkage,” a.k.a. employee theft.

Adding insult to injury, many in-house thieves get away with it. “These cases are rarely prosecuted,” says Consalvi. “With a mechanical lock and no audit record, it’s your word against someone else’s. But with an audit record, when someone is prosecuted, it holds up in court. The audit reports can be printed out, PDF’d, emailed, and when they come out of the lock, you cannot change or reformat them.” In other words, the reports don’t lie, and that can prove to be a big deterrent to potential thieves.

Kaba Mas is on the cutting edge of technology as it moves forward. Knowing passwords and codes could be stolen and entered by the wrong (dishonest) user, the company offers a Smart series biometric option that asks for a PIN and a fingerprint—the locks will not open with a “dummy” fingerprint. A user can no longer say, “That wasn’t me.”

The company continues to develop systems that will be able to manage networks of locks, safes and the compartments within safes, monitoring activity from one central location.

“Our locks are deterrents,” says Consalvi. “You can see signs in the windows announcing a time delay safe on the premises. That is a message to any would-be robber that if you try to break in here, you’ll have to wait.”
There’s Nothing Cheesy About Your Security!
Get the Safe Lock Supreme from Kaba Mas.

At Kaba Mas our entire menu of safe locks ensures that your cash assets are accessible only to those with proper authorization. Audit trails are the key ingredient in holding employees accountable, while à la carte features such as multiple levels of managers, time locking and the ability to add enough users to handle multiple shifts per day combine to serve up a complete security offering. And that’s not to mention the durability to take the abuse that comes from working with pizza dough and that special sauce!

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