





Key Control Strategies

FOR A SECURE, COST-EFFICIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE FLEET

BY TRICIA BUTLER

University fleets play a pivotal role in campus operations. Whether a vehicle

transports students to and from campus, carries equipment for facility

maintenance, or enables faculty and staff to attend off-campus events,

each one is valuable both in purpose and replacement cost.

continued...

However, managing fleets comes with significant challenges—particularly in terms of security, rising costs, and sustainability. Here are some ways campuses can dramatically improve university fleet operations through a relatively simple

strategy: implementing an effective key management plan.

Security

Failing to properly secure vehicle keys is a major risk. For example, if a fleet

department stores keys on a pegboard or in a basic lockbox, anyone who accesses the area can easily remove a key, regardless of if they're authorized to do so, and access a fleet vehicle.

Unauthorized use of fleet vehicles not only interferes with routine university operations but also increases the institution's liability risk. For example, someone recklessly driving a branded university vehicle puts others at risk and endangers the university's reputation. In addition, if the vehicle is involved in an accident, it can lead to higher insurance costs and pose legal risks, especially if the university's key control practices are inadequate.

Key Control Strategies

- **Secure Keys Properly:** Instead of a pegboard or lockbox, fleet managers should consider an electronic key management system that secures all keys in tamper-proof steel drawers or solid wall-mounted panels that lock down each key individually. Key control technology enhances security by restricting access to authorized personnel only, reducing the risks and costs associated with misplaced or stolen keys and vehicles.
- **Automatically Authenticate Drivers:** A key control system should require drivers to scan a fingerprint, enter a PIN, or swipe a card to gain access to keys.
- **Enable Security Alerts:** A system should be able to alert managers in real time via text or email if someone tries to take a key without proper authorization or fails to return a key within a specific time frame. These measures help ensure immediate action in the event of unauthorized key access, encourage employees to practice good stewardship of keys, and protect the university from liability.

Rising Costs

Tens of thousands of dollars go toward modifications, maintenance, fuel, and more over the course of a vehicle's fleet life.

continued...



Are you in
control of
your keys...

or is your
organization
at risk?



Take our 5-question
quiz to find out.



keytrak.com/pupn



Fleet managers are tasked with achieving readiness rates year in and year out as costs climb and budgets shrink.

If an institution is operating on a limited budget, there's no room for inefficiency. When evaluating cost-saving measures, eliminating time-consuming manual key control processes is a good place to start. This issue alone wastes valuable resources, from lost productivity to key replacement costs. A process that requires someone to manually sign keys in or out delays staff or faculty getting the vehicles they need. That's not to mention the interruptions throughout the fleet manager's day when they need to check a key in or out. Errors or omissions on the key log lead to further complications.

Another significant source of cost inefficiencies is maintenance, which is only compounded by supply chain challenges. To extend vehicle lifespans and avoid *continued...*

AWESOME UNIVERSITY STADIUM

AWESOME UNIVERSITY
HOME OF THE EAGLES

ULTRA COACHLINER.

BUILD YOUR COACHLINER
coachliner.com

3M CERTIFIED INSTALLER

PASSENGER AND LUGGAGE
BEST IN CLASS
CAPACITY

Travel in comfort and style
in the REVOLUTIONARY bus that is changing passenger transportation throughout the U.S.

WE ARE A 3M CERTIFIED FULL-SERVICE WRAP SHOP with a climate-controlled atmosphere that can execute your ideas from design, to printing, and installation.

SEVERAL MODELS AVAILABLE

BENEFITS & ADVANTAGES

- FUEL SAVINGS**
- HALF THE MAINTENANCE EXPENSE**
- 50% LESS DOWN TIME**
- THOUSANDS OF WARRANTY CENTERS NATIONWIDE**

VISIT COACHLINER.COM OR CALL (800) 475-1439

THE ULTRA COACHLINER™ DXL is the industry leader. This motorcoach has the smooth ride, capacity, and luggage space of a high-end traditional coach bus, at only half the cost to own and operate.

THE NEXT LEVEL OF ACCESS CONTROL



X-SERIES HD Video Intercoms

These compact and sleek intercoms offer a feature-rich solution designed to deliver high-definition video and dependable voice communication via SIP VoIP phone systems, cloud providers, or third party apps.

Privacy-focused design with the option for users to choose their own SIP and NVR solutions, giving full control to the end user to host their own systems without the need for forced cloud services or subscriptions.

When you need reliable access control...

YOU NEED A VIKING.



VIKING

715.386.8861 |  vikingelectronics.com

costly repairs, timely maintenance is crucial. Inadequate maintenance drives up costs as over-worked vehicles face emergency roadside repairs or pricey part replacements.

Monitoring a fleet's high-use vehicles is a priority since they often require the most maintenance. However, it's important not to forget vehicles that tend to stay on the lot. When vehicles are stagnant, tires can rot, batteries can degrade, fuel can go bad, and fluid leaks can develop.

Key Control Strategies

- **Digitize Key Logs:** To save time and ensure an accurate key log, electronic key control systems can automatically record who took a key, when, and why. With accurate key logs, fleet managers are better equipped to right-size the fleet, maintain timely maintenance schedules, and achieve a high readiness rate.

- **Enter Vehicle Mileage Upon Key Return:** Key control systems can prompt users to enter mileage when they return a key, helping fleet managers streamline maintenance schedules. Managers can then review daily reports to find discrepancies and track maintenance.
- **Review Key Activity Logs to Identify Under- or Overutilization:** The data key control systems generate, such as usage patterns and mileage records, helps inform decision making. By having access to detailed reports, fleet managers can make strategic choices regarding budget allocation, maintenance schedules, and vehicle assignments.
- **Reserve Keys When Vehicles Are Due for Maintenance:** When a vehicle is approaching a mileage milestone, fleet managers can reserve that key to temporarily remove the vehicle from rotation.

Sustainability

Universities rely heavily on their fleets for various functions. However, excessive use increases fuel consumption, which not only strains the university's budget but also contributes to higher carbon emissions, amplifying the institution's environmental impact.

Unnecessary use also accelerates wear and tear on vehicles, reducing their overall lifespans. Addressing these sustainability challenges is difficult if drivers put "mystery miles" on vehicles, using them without permission or for unauthorized reasons.

Key Control Strategies

- **Track Key Usage Patterns to Optimize Utilization:** Key control systems' ability to automatically record who took a key, when, and why provides a comprehensive overview of fleet utilization. With this data, fleet

continued...

AquaticAccess.com

Simpler is Smarter

Water flows in - the seat goes up
Water flows out - the seat goes down

No electricity, batteries, charging, remotes, actuators, contacts, solar cells, gears, motors, brushes, oils, pumps, or extensive maintenance schedules

800.325.LIFT
502.425.5817

*"Our students love our lift!
It's easy maintenance, actually no maintenance.
It's a wonderful product. Get one!"*

Karen Sato, Gavilan College, Gilroy, CA

Transform Your Campus Maintenance with Billy Goat® Power!

- Aerators*
- Sod Cutters*
- Power Rakes
- Overseeders
- Brush Mowers
- Wheeled & Stand-On Blowers*
- Outdoor Vacuums
- Debris Loaders

*Call 800-776-7690 for demo.

Call 800-776-7690 or visit billygoat.com

We're Still Listening.

Water professionals know that swimmers demand clear and clean water. That's why we continue to work hard to make your job easier. Make chlorination easy with the **ACF Series** Calcium Hypochlorite Feeders.

Clarify with Vantage Poly-A Clarifying Tablets. This unique and powerful tablet water clarifier is not just to clear up cloudy water after a long weekend. As a maintenance product, it works with your filtration system to remove organic and inorganic compounds to prevent dull and cloudy water.

SANITIZE with the **ACF Series**

Calcium Hypochlorite Tablet Feeders

- Safer than liquid systems
- Runs "Clean" - Less Maintenance!
- Simple, Efficient, and Durable
- Systems available for ANY size pool
- NSF/ANSI Standard 50 Certified

CLARIFY with the **VPF-20**

Poly-A Tablet Feeder

- Unique tablet clarifier
- Easier than liquid systems
- Removes organic and inorganic compounds
- Increases filter effectiveness
- Proven cryptosporidium removal



AllChem Performance Products, Inc.
Phone: 352.378.9696
FAX: 866.343.1216
email: vantage@allchem.com
www.vantagewatercare.com

VANTAGE

Copyright 2015
VANTAGE is a registered trademark of
AllChem Performance Products, Inc.



managers can allocate resources efficiently to achieve sustainability objectives and foster responsible fleet management practices.

- **Review Mileage History to Identify Wasteful Use:** By enabling precise tracking of fleet keys, electronic key control helps reduce wasteful fleet use. Fleet managers can detect mystery miles by comparing mileage accrued on a vehicle against the checkout reason provided.
- **Assign Vehicles Based on Job Roles to Conserve Resources:** To prevent unnecessary wear and tear on vehicles and reduce fuel emissions, fleet managers can restrict access to certain vehicles based on job roles. For example, a recruiter would be able to check out a fuel-efficient sedan but not a van.

continued...

Sustainable Grease Management for Higher Education:

Improved Fire Safety and Reduced Environmental Impact

Balancing your sustainability goals with operational safety is a growing priority for academic institutions. **Grease Lock®** supports both by reducing grease vapor accumulation, minimizing toxic chemicals and water usage, and protecting your kitchen ventilation system. Providing a cleaner, safer approach to managing your dining operations.

- ✓ Captures up to **98%** of grease vapors before they enter the ventilation system.
- ✓ Reduces hood cleaning frequency by **75%**.
- ✓ Fire-retardant, biodegradable, and landfill-safe filter media.
- ✓ Stainless steel, dishwasher-safe baffle filters.
- ✓ Available in sizes fitting most OEM hoods.

Protect not only your institution but also your staff and student body with proven, innovative grease capture technology.

Visit our website at www.greaselock.com or scan this QR code:

© 2026 Grease Lock



Whether it's routine classroom maintenance or major campus renovations, BLUE BEAR's professional cleaners and coating removers deliver powerful results without the hazards of harsh chemicals.

Franmar.com • 800.538.5069

Using technology to improve key management empowers fleet managers to enhance campus safety, optimize operations for better cost control, and promote responsible resource management. With effective key control, university fleets can continue to drive campus operations forward for years to come.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Tricia Butler is a Senior Field Manager with KeyTrak, Inc. For over two decades, she has helped some of the largest higher education campuses across the western U.S. minimize key management risks and operate more efficiently.

AMERICAN SLIP METER®

SLIP AND FALL PREVENTION SINCE 1993

SALES, SERVICE & RENTALS OF SCOF & DCOF TRIBOMETERS



ASM 925

Our ASM 925DCOF meter is perfect for the new NFSI B101.4-2023 wet barefoot testing standard. Our 925 is an NFSI Approved Tribometer for DCOF testing. Our 925 is, also, an automated DCOF meter that tests to NFSI B101.3 and ANSI A326.3. No drive wheels to slip on ramps, bathtubs or grout lines. Test stairs in four directions.



825A

Our 825A is an economical manual SCOF meter that tests to ANSI/NFSI B101.1-2009. Easy to operate for both dry and wet tests. Used across the globe for many years.

For more information on both meters visit
www.americanslipmeter.com

Questions? Contact us at
info@americanslipmeter.com or 941-681-2431

Crafting Custom Wall Panels with Precision.



Elevate your buildings aesthetic with a fully custom façade. Reach out today to explore our extensive range of solutions ideal for both new builds and retrofits.

IMETCO
INNOVATIVE METALS COMPANY, INC.

(800) 646-3826
www.imetco.com

LP2016

Mobile Stage



This stage works beautifully for outdoor events, presentations, and performances. It is also ideal for a front-of-house sound position for larger stages and amphitheaters.

- Easy to tow
- Easy to store
- Easy to set up



Whether you are planning outside events or indoor venues, you need a dependable stage. Astra is the affordable solution.



Astra Stages LLC | 3303 Airport Circle | Pittsburg, KS 66762 | (620)704-9986



**Get Your Team
GAME READY!**

VERSASPORT
WOOD PHENOLIC LOCKERS

CUSTOM INSTALLS



Made in America Since 1936

Metal, Plastic, Phenolic & Wood Lockers



LIST INDUSTRIES INC.

800-776-1342

info@ListIndustries.com

ListIndustries.com

Introducing the Game-Changer: Recruiter2™ Wood Sport Lockers

List Industries Inc.® is proud of our Recruiter2™ Wood Sport Lockers, they are designed to elevate your locker room and attract top athletes.



Modern Luxury, Imagine the Impact

These beauties boast sleek, modern contour edges and convenient features. Picture a luxurious, modern locker room – a true testament to your commitment to your players. The Recruiter2™ lockers deliver this upscale look at a very competitive price.

Built to Last, Crafted with Care

These lockers are handcrafted using top-of-the-line furniture-grade plywood, ensuring they stay beautiful for years to come. Expertly assembled with state-of-the-art equipment, they arrive ready to install.

Personalize Their Space

Enhance the player experience with a variety of custom accessories. List Industries' experts will guide you through the entire process, from initial design to project completion.

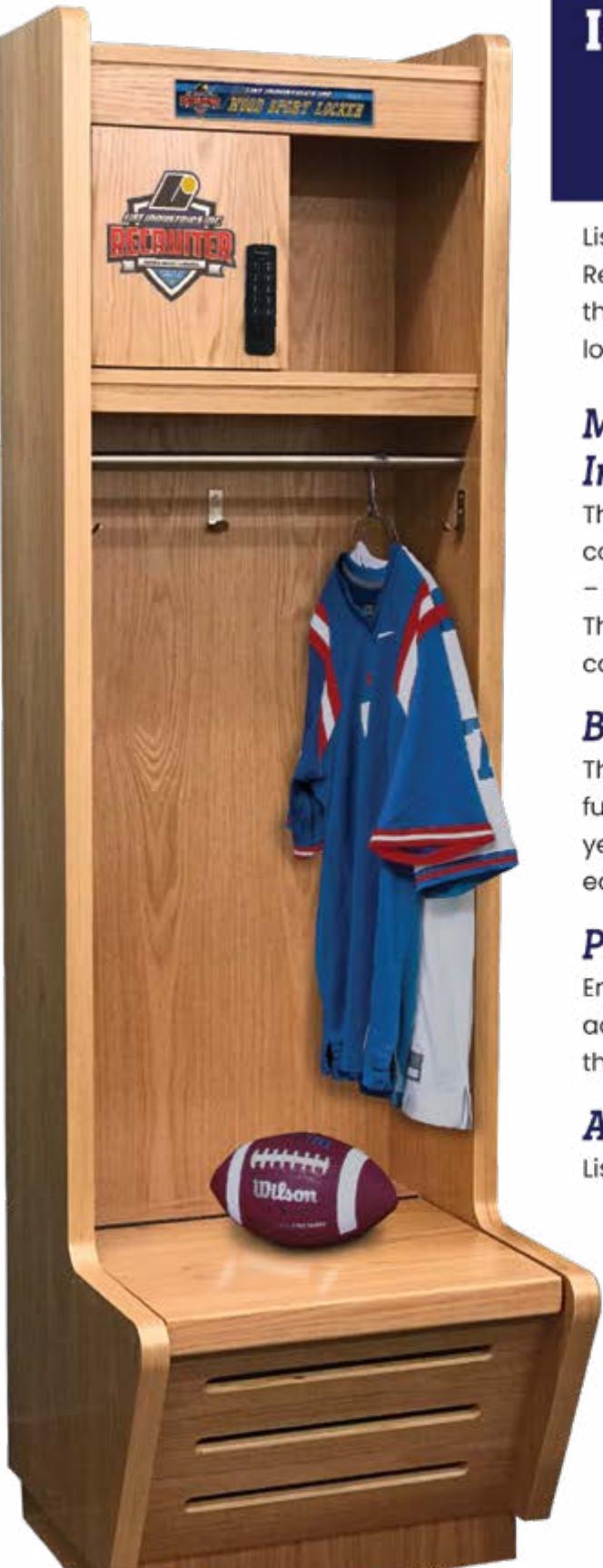
America's Most Complete Locker Line

List Industries has earned its reputation for quality, service, and an unparalleled selection. They offer lockers in various materials (metal, wood, phenolic, plastic) and sizes to meet the needs of any facility, from high schools to professional sports arenas.

Ready to take your locker room to the next level?

Visit www.listindustries.com
call 843-371-4790 or email: stt@listindustries.com

*Check out our
install video
here*



 **LIST INDUSTRIES INC.**