CLAIMS

1. A non-mechanical-interfacing electronic switch comprising:

an electronic switching mechanism disposed within a housing of the non-mechanical-interfacing electronic switch, wherein the electronic switching mechanism is configured to modulate the non-mechanical-interfacing electronic switch between an active state and an inactive state;

an aperture in the housing, wherein the aperture defines an insertion path extending from a first location external to the housing to a second location internal to the housing;

a photodiode disposed within the housing, wherein the photodiode is configured to operate the electronic switching mechanism; and

a mechanical lockout device having a protrusion configured to be inserted through the aperture along the insertion path, wherein the protrusion includes a light emitting diode configured to transmit a signal along a signal path to the photodiode.

2. The non-mechanical-interfacing electronic switch of claim 1, wherein the electronic switching mechanism includes at least one semiconductor defining a non-mechanical electronic switch, and wherein the non-mechanical electronic switch is configured to switch the non-mechanical-interfacing electronic switch between the active state and the inactive state based on electronic action.

3. The non-mechanical electronic switch of claim 1, wherein the signal is infrared light.

4. A method of mechanically locking a non-mechanical-interfacing electronic switch comprising:

inserting a protrusion of a mechanical lockout device through an aperture in a housing of the non-mechanical-interfacing electronic switch, wherein the protrusion is inserted along an insertion path extending from a first location external to the housing to a second location internal to the housing, and wherein the inserting includes transmitting a signal transmitted from a light emitting diode disposed on the protrusion along a signal path to a photodiode disposed within the housing; and

controlling an electronic switching mechanism disposed within the housing based on the inserting.

5. A mechanical-interfacing electronic switch comprising:

an electronic switching mechanism disposed within a housing of the mechanical-interfacing electronic switch, wherein the electronic switching mechanism includes at least one semiconductor defining a non-mechanical electronic switch, and wherein the non-mechanical electronic switch is configured to switch the mechanical-interfacing electronic switch between an active state and an inactive state based on electronic action;

a photodiode disposed within the housing; and

a light emitting diode disposed in the housing, wherein the light emitting diode is configured to transmit a signal along a signal path to the photodiode; and

a mechanical-interfacing control part having a base portion located external to the housing and a protrusion located internal to the housing,

wherein movement of the base portion causes movement of the protrusion such that in a first position the protrusion does not intersect a signal path produced between the light emitting diode and the photodiode, and in a second position the protrusion intersects with the signal path, such that the mechanical interface serves to actuate the electronic switch between an active state and an inactive state; and

a hasp, wherein the base portion is oriented to engage the hasp in one of the first position or the second position.