Claims

1. A carrier stool configured to provide a working position for the exchange of twist-locks in a container lock management system, the carrier stool comprising:

    one or more seats configured to, in use, removably receive and support a universal lock carrier, the universal lock carrier configured to be loadable with a twist-lock; and

    a pedestal to support the one or more seats.

2. The carrier stool of claim 1, wherein each seat comprises one or more positioning elements configured to removably receive the universal lock carrier.

3. The carrier stool of claim 2, wherein the one or more positioning elements comprises at least one alignment pin onto which the universal lock carrier is mountable, and wherein the at least one alignment pin has a circular profile.

4. The carrier stool of claim 3, wherein the at least one alignment pin is tapered and/or has a spherical end.

5. The carrier stool of claim 2, wherein the one or more positioning elements comprises two or more alignment pins, and wherein the two or more alignment pins have different profiles.

6. The carrier stool of claim 3, wherein the at least one alignment pin constrains the position of the universal lock carrier in an X-Y plane and allows the universal lock carrier to move linearly in a Z-direction, and wherein the one or more positioning elements comprises a stop to position the universal lock carrier in the Z-direction.

7. The carrier stool of claim 6, wherein the stop comprises a shoulder of the one or more alignment pins, and wherein, in use, the universal lock carrier rests on the shoulder when supported on the seat.

8. The carrier stool of claim 1, wherein the carrier stool comprises three elongate alignment pins arranged in a substantially triangular formation, and wherein each alignment pin comprises a shoulder pin.

9. The carrier stool of claim 1, wherein the seat comprises a calibration element that supports and allows adjustment of the positioning elements, and wherein the calibration element comprises a plate rotatably mounted on a frame of the seat, and wherein the frame connects the seat to the pedestal.

10. A universal lock carrier for transporting and handling twist-locks in a container lock management system, the universal lock carrier comprising:

a cradle configured to releasably receive and support, in use, a twist-lock loaded on the universal lock carrier;

a storage system interface configured so that the universal lock carrier is engageable with, and handleable by, a complementary carrier interface of a classified lock storage system; and

one or more complementary positioning elements configured to cooperate with positioning elements of a seat of a carrier stool, the positioning elements configured to removably receive the universal lock carrier.

11. The universal lock carrier of claim 10, wherein the cradle comprises one or more guides to, in use, position a twist-lock on the cradle.

12. The universal lock carrier of claim 10, wherein the cradle comprises a U-shaped support for a twist-lock, and wherein the U-shaped support is set at an angle to the horizonal.

13. A container lock management system comprising:

one or more container pinning systems each of which comprises at least one carrier stool according to claim 1; and

a classified lock storage system.

14. The container lock management system of claim 13, wherein the container lock management system comprises a lock classification system, the lock classification system comprising at least one carrier stool according to claim 1.

15. The container lock management system of claim 13, wherein the container lock management system comprises one or more universal lock carriers according to claim 10.