[0010] There also remains the potential issue when lifting multiple containers that the stack may experience a phenomenon known as "helicoptering" which makes accurate and safe positioning of containers difficult.

[0011] Accordingly, there is a need to devise a way in which the full capacity of the container can be used for lifting. The end (and/or side) holes could be used to take some of the load but also designed so that the container can be handled in standard ways and lashed above a ship's deck in a safe manner. There is also a need to eliminate the uncertainties as to whether the fitting is properly engaged with the container.

Object of Invention

[0012] It is an object of the present invention to substantially overcome or at least ameliorate one or more of the disadvantages of the prior art, or to at least provide a useful alternative.

Summary of Invention

[0013] There is firstly disclosed herein a locking assembly having:

a base, the base defining a longitudinally extending base axis;

a pair of arms extending longitudinally away from said base in opposing directions;

each said arm having a proximal end engageable with said base and a distal end remote said base;

said distal end of said arm having a locking means movable parallel relative to said base axis and adapted to engage a recess of an object to lock said object to said assembly.

[0014] Preferably, said base is generally rectangular in shape and defines a longitudinally extending base axis.

[0015] Preferably, said arms define a longitudinally extending arm axis which is generally perpendicular to said base axis.

[0016] Preferably, said locking means is rotatable about said arm axis.

[0017] Preferably, said locking means is moveable parallel to said base axis.

CLAIMS

1. A locking assembly having:

a base, the base defining a longitudinally extending base axis;

a pair of arms extending longitudinally away from said base in opposing directions;

each said arm having a proximal end engageable with said base and a distal end remote said base;

said distal end of said arm having a locking means movable parallel relative to said base axis and adapted to engage a recess of an object to lock said object to said assembly.

~~2. The locking assembly of claim 1, wherein said base is generally rectangular in shape and defines a longitudinally extending base axis.~~

~~3~~2. The locking assembly of claim ~~2~~1, wherein said arms define a longitudinally extending arm axis which is generally perpendicular to said base axis.

~~4~~3. The locking assembly of claim ~~3~~2, wherein said locking means is rotatable about said arm axis.

~~5. The locking assembly of claim 3, wherein said locking means is moveable parallel to said base axis.~~

~~6~~4. The locking assembly of claim 1, wherein said locking means includes a tab member to be located in use in said recess of said object to lock said object to said assembly.

~~7. The locking assembly of claim 6, wherein said object is a shipping container.~~

~~8. The locking assembly of claim 7, wherein said container includes one or more recesses located at one or more corners of said container.~~

~~9~~5. The locking assembly of claim ~~8~~4, wherein said tab member locks into a recess located at a corner of a shipping container and parallel to a side or end wall of said container.

~~10~~6. The locking assembly of claim ~~8~~4, wherein said tab member slides along a plane approximately parallel to said base axis to engage a recess located at a corner of a shipping container and parallel to a side or end wall of said container.

~~11~~7. The locking assembly of claim 1, ~~wherein said~~further comprising moving means ~~is an actuator~~configured to move said locking means parallel relative to said base axis.

~~12~~8. The locking assembly of claim ~~11~~7, wherein said actuator is operatively associated with said base.

~~13~~9. The locking assembly of claim 1, wherein the arms are integrally formed and movable together.

~~14~~10. The locking assembly of claim 1, wherein said locking means includes a spring to engage said locking means upon insertion into a recess of an object.

~~15~~11. The locking assembly of claim 1, wherein the arms move with the locking means relative to said base.

~~16~~12. The locking assembly of claim 1, including means adapted to lock the arms into the object so that a locking position cannot be attained unless the locking assembly is properly engaged to the object.

~~17~~13. The locking assembly of claim 1, wherein the locking assembly is adapted to connect two objects together by engagement of the locking means within corresponding recesses of said objects.

~~18~~14. The locking assembly of claim 1, including an actuator adapted to positively lock the assembly in a lock or unlock position ~~and also provide a means by which the assembly is adapted to permit automatic attachment to and from an object~~.

~~19~~15. The locking assembly of claim 1, including means by which the assembly can be remotely identified.