identification placards however adhesives commonly failed leading to being banned by many utilities and agencies.

[0006] Another problem associated with this fastening method, in addition to fastening and retention problems, is that there was no provision for orienting the tag on the lid allowing the tag to rotate during installation or through actual use making the interpretation of the information on the tag more difficult to read. This method lead to the requirement of having a completely separate orientation feature for the placard and lid spaced away from the post adding to the cost and complexity of manufacture.

[0007] Therefore a need exists for an improved fastening system for attaching an identification placard to a lid or cover for an underground, grade level or above ground vault, pit, chamber or box which addresses the drawbacks of previous fastening systems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007a] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a fastening system for attaching an identification placard having a post to a lid for a vault from a single side of the lid comprising:

a fastener having non-flexible body portions for positioning within a hole in the lid,

the fastener having at least one flexible flange positioned between and not attached to the body portions that flexes independent of the body portions when the fastener is inserted into the hole,

the flexible flange having a tab extending at an end of the flexible flange for retaining the fastener to a lower portion of the lid,

the fastener having lobes extending radially outward from the body portions for preventing over insertion of the body portions into the hole in the lid; and

a bore extending through the body portions for receipt of and friction or mechanical retention of the post of the identification placard;

wherein the identification placard is attached without the use of adhesives.

[0008] There is disclosed a fastening system for an identification placard for a cover or lid for an underground, grade level or above ground vault, pit, chamber or box which addresses the problems of prior fastening systems and can easily and inexpensively provide for the attachment and positioning of the placard to the lid. There is disclosed a fastening system, comprising a single side push nut or speed nut retainer which is a tool-less fastener that reduces the chance of failure, and allows for single side attachment and orientation of the placard to the lid without the use of adhesives.

[0009] In one embodiment, the fastener is a one side access push nut or speed nut retainer which is positioned within a through-hole or a blind hole in the lid for the vault. The fastener would include barbs or other features that retain the fastener to the inside of the hole in the lid and includes an indexing feature within the fastener for proper orientation of the identification placard. The identification placard typically is disc shaped having a post which is inserted into the fastener without tools and is secured to the fastener through a friction fit and/or prongs embedding into the mating material or interlocking into features such as grooves, recesses, notches, and rings and/or raised features. The post on the identification placard would include a groove or channel for engaging the indexing feature in the fastener for proper orientation of the placard with respect to the lid. The fastener also includes a flange or a lip that prevents the fastener from being over inserted into the hole in the lid.

[0010] In another embodiment, the invention comprises a lobed post on the identification placard which is inserted into a correspondingly shaped mating hole in the lid such that the identification placard can only be inserted into the hole in one

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fastening system for attaching an identification placard having a post to a lid for a vault from a single side of the lid comprising:

a fastener having non-flexible body portions for positioning within a hole in the lid,

the fastener having at least one flexible flange positioned between and not attached to the body portions that flexes independent of the body portions when the fastener is inserted into the hole,

the flexible flange having a tab extending at an end of the flexible flange for retaining the fastener to a lower portion of the lid,

the fastener having lobes extending radially outward from the body portions for preventing over insertion of the body portions into the hole in the lid; and

a bore extending through the body portions for receipt of and friction or mechanical retention of the post of the identification placard;

wherein the identification placard is attached without the use of adhesives.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one flexible flange comprises two flexible flanges spaced from one another and positioned between the body portions.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the bore has a polygonal configuration.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the bore includes an indexing flange extending away from the bore for receipt of an indexing groove on the post.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the bore has a tapered surface of non-uniform thickness.