

Press release

from ASSA ABLOY Division Asia Pacific

28 June, 2007

Lockwood reputation for quality, innovation and the "Safety Release" confirmed.

ASSA ABLOY Australia Pty Ltd (formerly Lockwood Security Products) has recently succeeded in a landmark High Court of Australia judgement against Doric Products Pty Ltd.

Commenced in the Federal Court of Australia in October 2000 and continuing over seven years, Australia's leading lock manufacturer Lockwood stood its ground when Doric released a product incorporating a safety release feature into a rim mounted lock, as found in the popular Lockwood 001 Deadlatch with Safety Release – also incorporated into the Whitco Deadlatch, another well known ASSA ABLOY brand.

Committed to developing premium and innovative locking solutions that meet or exceed all Australian standards, ASSA ABLOY flagship brand Lockwood is locally and internationally recognised as a premium brand offering quality safety and security solutions and products. ASSA ABLOY leads the industry in its research and development of security solutions based on innovative and sophisticated intellectual property.

In this instance Lockwood developed and patented a lock of the 001 type having a "Safety Release" feature that physically unlocks the inside lock cylinder upon entry by key from outside. The device minimises the risk of people being accidentally locked inside their homes and unable to escape in an emergency such as a house-fire. Doric subsequently started selling locks that infringed Lockwood's patent.

"It is very rewarding to see ASSA ABLOY's commitment to local research and development recognised by the legal system. It is a win for the consumer, not only in Australia, but also across the Pacific region, who is ultimately the beneficiary of Lockwood products based on innovative intellectual property. It is also a win for ASSA ABLOY and the Lockwood brand as it vindicates our commitment to protecting world's best practice, and innovations in the realm of door opening solutions" said Christer Peterson, Market Region Manager ASSA ABLOY Pacific.

The High Court judgement handed down on 23 May 2007 upheld the validity of certain claims of the patent and on that basis issued the High Court injunction restraining Doric from continuing to deal in the infringing locks.

For more information please contact:

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ASSA ABLOY is the global leader in door opening solutions dedicated to satisfying end-user needs for security, safety and convenience.

In Australia ASSA ABLOY's highly distinctive and highly visible brands include Lockwood, Whitco and Interlock. Our customer base includes retail, trade, industrial, architectural, locksmiths and security dealers in the residential housing, commercial building and industrial application markets.