

For Immediate Release

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**AIR TRAVEL IS CHALLENGING---EASE YOUR WORRIES WITH
A TSA-ACCEPTED LOCK FROM MASTER LOCK
TO SECURE YOUR TRAVEL BAGS AND PERSONAL ITEMS**

Master Lock offers a few travel tips to protect your bags and to help you enjoy your trip

Milwaukee, WI—September 2009—The airlines handle millions of **checked bags** each year and while there is not much you can do to avoid having your bag go to Denver when you are going to Dallas, there is plenty you can do to protect what is in your **luggage**. You can protect the contents of your luggage and meet **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** requirements by using a **Master Lock TSA-Accepted Luggage Lock** (www.masterlocktsa.com.)

In a special report issued by the TSA in late 2008, it was discovered that for a three year period, nearly 42,000 travelers reported items stolen from their luggage with a total estimated value of more than \$31 million. According to the TSA, these are only items that were reported to them and do not include items reported to the airlines independently. Items stolen included everything from medicine to jewelry, clothing, laptops, perfume and cell phones. Recent studies also indicate that many travelers are not aware they can secure their luggage with a TSA-accepted lock or that such locks even exist. The TSA recommends using **accepted locks** that can be opened only by **TSA screeners** using a special tool and then re-locked, leaving luggage and contents unharmed and secure. Non-TSA-accepted locks are subject to being cut by security officers leaving checked bags vulnerable to theft or to having items simply fall out during transit. A Master Lock TSA-accepted lock is easily recognized by officials so it will not be cut or destroyed and can help keep personal items safe.

Master Lock TSA-accepted luggage locks are affordable, come in a variety of easily identifiable colors and are emblazoned with a red and white diamond logo signaling officials that they meet **TSA requirements**. Master Lock joined with the TSA and Travel Sentry™ to use the special diamond trademark to denote its locks are “**air-travel-safe**” and to signal TSA and airline officials that such bags can be easily inspected, but then can be relocked. Since all checked luggage is now required to be screened and many bags are opened prior to being loaded on planes, using a TSA-accepted lock provides peace of mind that your bag will remain secure throughout your travels. In addition to a full-line of TSA-accepted travel locks, Master Lock also offers the following travel tips to help keep your personal belongings safe and to make your trip more enjoyable:

- Use a Master Lock TSA-accepted lock for all carry-on and checked bags to protect your valuables, to avoid having your lock cut and to keep items safe throughout your entire trip.
- Place contact information inside and outside your bags for easy identification and a fast return to you if lost.
- Use your TSA-accepted lock on all bags throughout your trip- even in your hotel room and at the bell-desk, as an additional theft deterrent.
- Carry an ATM card, credit cards or travelers checks instead of cash.
- The U.S. State Department recommends you register your trip in case of emergency at their free online service <http://travelregistration.state.gov>.
- Sign your passport, include emergency contact information and make multiple copies of your passport and other important documents. Give them to a family member or trusted friend in case of an emergency.
- Take precautions and be aware of your surroundings to avoid being a target of crime.
- Have more fun knowing that if you follow these simple tips and use Master Lock TSA-accepted locks properly your items will be as secure as possible!

“Air travel is challenging but you can ease your worries about your luggage and personal items by using a TSA-accepted lock from Master Lock,” said Rebecca Smith, vice president, marketing for Master Lock. “Whenever your bags are out of your sight, they are vulnerable to theft. If bags are not closed properly, items may simply fall out. Master Lock TSA-accepted locks help avoid these pitfalls and help you focus on your trip, rather than the security of your personal items.”

Master Lock TSA-accepted locks were born out of the new travel rules and regulations established after September 11, 2001 and like all Master Lock products are engineered to exclusive specifications. Master Lock offers 9 models of TSA-accepted luggage locks, all with unique features. Choose from “set-your-own” combinations for keyless convenience, or “keyed alike” sets which are ideal for family travel. Some locks offer a flexible cable to withstand the abuse of baggage handling equipment while others feature the Instant Alert indicator which signals when a TSA screener has accessed your bag. Retail prices range from \$7.49 to \$13.49. For an extra measure of security and convenience, visit www.combolocker.com, Combolocker allows you to store up to 5 combinations or key numbers in a secure database that can be accessed 24/7, 365 days a year. Master Lock also offers a full-line of traditional locking devices designed for non-air travel. For more information please visit www.masterlocktsa.com or www.masterlock.com.

(Product photography is available upon request)

About Master Lock

Master Lock is the world's largest manufacturer of padlocks and related security products providing innovative security solutions for home, automotive, campus, power sports, bike and storage security needs for consumers and contractors alike. Master Lock Company LLC is an operating unit of **Fortune Brands, Inc.**, a leading consumer brands company. Headquartered in Deerfield, IL, Fortune Brands (NYSE:FO) is included in the S&P 500 Index.

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