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LOCK OUT TAG OUT FOR QUICK DISCONNECT

Abstract

A lockout tagout device associated with a fitting includes a body having a first body portion and a second body portion. The second body portion is movable relative to the first body portion about an axis of rotation to transform the body between a closed configuration and an open configuration. The lockout tagout device is connectable to the fitting such that the axis of rotation is oriented parallel to a longitudinal axis of the fitting.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 63/554,442, filed Feb. 16, 2024, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a lockout tagout device, and more particularly, to a lockout tagout device suitable for use with a quick connector coupling.

[0003] Lockout tagout devices may be used in a variety of applications to lock out access to a component of a machine, such as during maintenance for example, to prevent a release of pneumatic, thermal, or chemical energy. Once a lockout tagout device is installed, a warning tag may be used to indicate that the system and the isolating component may not be operated until the tag is removed and the component is unlocked.

[0004] Some existing lockout tagout devices have various shortcomings making them unsuitable for use in one or more applications. For example, a control panel of a fluid system may be crowded thereby limiting the available space for lockout tagout device to couple to a quick connector coupling of the control panel. Accordingly, it is desirable to design a lockout tagout device having a reduced sizing envelope for use in confined spaces.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

[0005] According to an embodiment, a lockout tagout device associated with a fitting includes a body having a first body portion and a second body portion. The second body portion is movable relative to the first body portion about an axis of rotation to transform the body between a closed configuration and an open configuration. The lockout tagout device is connectable to the fitting such that the axis of rotation is oriented parallel to a longitudinal axis of the fitting.

[0006] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the body has a first end, a second end, a sidewall extending between the first end and the second end, and an internal cavity. The first end has an opening for receiving the fitting formed therein.

[0007] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments each of the first body portion and the second body portion, respectively, defines part of the first end, the second end, and the sidewall.

[0008] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments an end of the fitting is receivable within the internal cavity and a diameter of the opening is smaller than a diameter of the end of the fitting receivable within the internal cavity.

[0009] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the internal cavity includes a sloped surface positionable in contact with a fitting surface to form a seal between the body and the fitting.

[0010] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the sloped surface is complementary to the fitting surface.

[0011] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the first body portion includes a first locking hole and the second body portion includes a second locking hole. The first locking hole is arranged at a non-parallel angle to the second locking hole when the body is in the open configuration. The first locking hole is aligned with the second locking hole when the body is in the closed configuration.

[0012] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the first body portion includes a first locking flange extending from the second end of the body and the second body portion includes a second locking flange extending from the second end of the body. The first locking hole is formed in the first locking flange and the second locking hole being formed in the second locking flange.

[0013] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the

foregoing embodiments the first locking flange has a first contoured surface and the second locking flange has a second contoured surface. The first contoured surface is complementary to the second contoured surface.

[0014] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the first body portion includes a first engagement member and the second body portion includes a second engagement member. The first engagement member is arranged in contact with the second engagement member when the body is in the closed configuration.

[0015] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the second engagement member protrudes radially outwardly beyond the sidewall.

[0016] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the body includes a tether arm having an opening, the opening being arranged parallel to the axis of rotation.

[0017] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the body is formed from a non-metallic material.

[0018] According to an embodiment, a lockout tagout assembly includes a fitting, a lockout tagout device connectable to the fitting and including a body having a first body portion and a second body portion. The second body portion is movable relative to the first body portion to transform the body between a closed configuration and an open configuration. A portion of the body is positionable in contact with the fitting and the portion of the body that is positionable in contact with the fitting is not formed from a metal material.

[0019] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the body includes a first end, a second end, a sidewall extending between the first end and the second end, and an internal cavity. The internal cavity is not formed from the metal material.

[0020] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the first end includes an opening and the fitting is positionable within the opening such that an end of the fitting is arranged within the internal cavity.

[0021] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments a diameter of the opening is smaller than a diameter of a portion of the fitting receivable within the internal cavity.

[0022] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the internal cavity includes a sloped surface being positionable in contact with a fitting surface to form a seal between the body and the fitting.

[0023] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the sloped surface is complementary to the fitting surface.

[0024] In addition to one or more of the features described above, or as an alternative to any of the foregoing embodiments the second body portion is movable relative to the first body portion about an axis of rotation and the axis of rotation is oriented parallel to a longitudinal axis of the fitting.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] The following descriptions should not be considered limiting in any way. With reference to the accompanying drawings, like elements are numbered alike:

[0026] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a lockout tagout device in an open configuration according to an embodiment;

[0027] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a lockout tagout device in a closed configuration according to an embodiment;

[0028] FIGS. 3A and 3B are various views of a lockout tagout device in an open configuration and positioned about a fitting according to an embodiment;
[0029] FIGS. 4A and 4B are various views of the lockout tagout device of FIGS. 3A and 3B in a closed configuration about the fitting according to an embodiment; and
[0030] FIG. 5 is a detailed cross-sectional view of an interface between the lockout tagout device and a fitting according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0031] A detailed description of one or more embodiments of the disclosed apparatus and method are presented herein by way of exemplification and not limitation with reference to the Figures.

[0032] With reference now to the FIGS., an example of a lockout tagout device **20** is illustrated. As shown, the lockout tagout device **20** includes a body **22** transformable between an open configuration and a closed configuration. The body **22** is couplable to a fitting **10**, such as a male quick disconnect for example. As will be described in more detail below, the lockout tagout device **20** may be positionable about a distal end **12** of the fitting **10**.

[0033] The body **22** of the lockout tagout device **20** may be formed from any suitable material, including, but not limited to a plastic or a composite material for example. In an embodiment, the body **22** is formed from a non-metallic material. However, in some embodiments, only a portion of the body may be formed from a non-metallic material. For example, any portion of the body **22** configured to contact the fitting **10** is formed from a non-metallic material to prevent metal on metal contact. Further, the lockout tagout device **20** may be formed via any suitable manufacturing process including but not limited to injection molding or additive manufacturing.

[0034] In the illustrated, non-limiting embodiment, when the lockout tagout device **20** is in the closed configuration, the body **22** is generally cylindrical in shape. However, embodiments where the body **22** has another shape are also within the scope of the disclosure. The body **22** includes a first end **24**, a second end **26**, and at least one sidewall **28** extending between and connecting the first end **24** and the second end **26**. As best shown in FIGS. 1, 3A, and 3B, the first end **24** may include an opening **30** within which a portion of the fitting **10** is receivable and the second, opposite end **26** of the body **22** may be substantially closed or sealed.

[0035] With reference to FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 5, the diameter of the opening **30** formed in the first end **24** of the body **22** is generally equal to or larger than a diameter of the fitting **10** at a first location, illustrated at **32** (see FIG. 5). In an embodiment, the diameter of the opening **30** may also be smaller than the diameter of the fitting **10** at a second location, illustrated at **34**, such as a flange for example. The second location **34** may be positioned near or adjacent to the first location **32**. In some embodiments, the second location **34** is positioned between the first location **32** and the distal end **12** of the fitting **10**. As a result, the enlarged diameter at the second location **34** restricts relative movement between the body **22** and the fitting **10** in one or more axial directions. For example, the enlarged diameter of the fitting **10** at the second location **34** may restrict separation of the fitting **10** from the body **22** of the lockout tagout device **20**.

[0036] In an embodiment, a cavity **36** is formed within the interior of the body **22** and is configured to receive a portion of the fitting **10**, such as the distal end **12** for example, therein. Accordingly, the overall size of the cavity **36** must be equal to or larger than the portion of the fitting extending between the first location **32** and the distal end **12**. The cavity **36** may but need not have a shape complementary or similar to the shape of the exterior of the body **22**. Alternatively, or in addition, the cavity **36** may but need not have a shape complementary or similar to the shape of the end **12** of the fitting **10** to which the lockout tagout device **20** is connectable. The cavity **36** may extend over only a portion of the axial length of the body **22**, or alternatively, may extend generally from the first end **24** to the second end **26** such that the substantial entirety of the interior of the body **22** is hollow.

[0037] The body **22** may be defined by a plurality of body portions connectable to one another to affix the lockout tagout device **20** to the fitting **10**. In the illustrated, non-limiting embodiment, the

body **22** includes a first body portion **40a** and a second body portion **40b**; however, embodiments having more than two portions are also within the scope of the disclosure. As shown, the first end **24**, the second end **26**, and the sidewall **28** extending therebetween may be formed, in combination, by the first body portion **40a** and the second body portion **40b**. In an embodiment, the portion of the first end **24**, the second end **26**, and the sidewall **28** formed by the first body portion **40a** are generally symmetrical with the portion of the first end **24**, the second end **26**, and the sidewall **28** formed by the second body portion **40b**. However, in other embodiments, the breakdown or division of the body **22** between the first and second body portions **40a**, **40b** may be uneven. For example, the first body portion **40a** may define more than 180 degrees of the periphery of the body **22** and the second body portion **40b** may define less than 180 degrees of the periphery of the body **22** or vice versa.

[0038] The first body portion **40a** may have a first planar surface **42** and the second body portion **40b** may have a second planar surface **44**. In an embodiment, the first and second planar surfaces **42**, **44** may be configured to contact one another when the lockout tagout device **20** is in a closed configuration. Accordingly, the first and second planar surfaces **42**, **44**, may define a plane along which the body **22** is divided into the first body portion **40a** and the second body portion **40b**, respectively. Further, the first and second planar surfaces **42**, **44** may be spaced from one another when the lockout tagout device **20** is in an open configuration.

[0039] In the illustrated, non-limiting embodiment, the first body portion **40a** and the second body portion **40b** remain connected to one another when the lockout tagout device **20** is in both an open configuration and a closed configuration. As shown, the first body portion **40a** and the second body portion **40b** may be rotatably coupled to one another. However, embodiments where the first body portion **40a** is completely separated from the second body portion **40b** when the lockout tagout device **20** is in an open configuration are also within the scope of the disclosure.

[0040] In the illustrated, non-limiting embodiment, the first body portion **40a** is connected to the second body portion **40b** via a hinge, illustrated generally at **46**. Accordingly, the first body portion **40a** is rotatable relative to the second body portion about an axis of rotation X of the hinge **46**. The hinge **46** may be arranged at an exterior of the body **22**, such as at an outer periphery thereof. In such embodiments, the rotational axis X of the hinge **46** may be spaced or laterally offset from the periphery of the fitting **10** when the lockout tagout device **20** is connected to the fitting **10**.

[0041] In an embodiment, the axis X of the hinge **46** is oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the fitting **10**. However, embodiments where the axis X is arranged at a non-zero angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the fitting **10** are also contemplated herein. In embodiments including a hinge **46**, each of the first body portion **40a** and the second body portion **40b** may include one or more barrels rotatably mounted about a pin (not shown) defining the axis X. The at least one barrel **48a** of the first body portion **40a** and the at least one barrel **48b** of the second body portion **40b** may be stacked in an alternating configuration along the axial length of the pin. In an embodiment, the diameter for receiving the pin formed in the outermost barrels of the hinge **46** may be smaller than the diameter for receiving the pin formed in the central barrels of the hinge **46**. This combination of diameters may create a tight or slip fit type of connection with the pin.

[0042] The body **22** includes a plurality of aligned locking holes when the lockout tagout device **20** is in a closed configuration. In such a configuration, a shackle or shank of a lock (not shown) is extendable through the plurality of locking holes to prevent the body **22** from transforming to the open configuration. In the illustrated, non-limiting embodiment, a first locking hole **50a** is associated with the first body portion **40a** and a second locking hole **50b** is associated with the second locking portion **40b**. Although the first and second locking holes **50a**, **50b** are illustrated as being substantially identical, in other embodiments, the first locking hole **50a** may be a different size and/or shape from the second locking hole **50b**.

[0043] The first and second locking holes **50a**, **50b** may be arranged at any suitable location about

the lockout tagout device **20**. In an embodiment, the first body portion **40a** includes a first locking flange **52a** extending from the second end **26** of the body **22**. The first locking flange **52a** may extend at a non-parallel angle relative to the second end **26** of the body **22**, such as parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body **22** or the fitting **10**, or to the axis X of the hinge **46** for example. In some embodiments, a first locking hole **50a** may be formed in the first locking flange **52a**. Similarly, a second locking flange **52b** may extend at an angle from the second end **26** of the body **22** and a second locking hole **50b** may be formed in the second locking flange **52b**. In the illustrated, non-limiting embodiment, one or both of the first and second locking flanges **52a**, **52b** and/or the first and second locking holes **50a**, **50b** is oriented substantially perpendicular to the planar surface **42**, **44** of the first and second body portion **40a**, **40b**, respectively. However, embodiments including a locking flange having another configuration are also within the scope of the disclosure.

[0044] When the body **22** is in the open configuration, the first and second locking flanges **52a**, **52b** may be arranged at a non-parallel angle relative to one another. As a result, the first and second locking holes **50a**, **50b** are not aligned or coaxial. As the first and second body portions **40a**, **40b** are moved relative to one another toward the closed configuration, the first and second locking flanges **52a**, **52b** move relative to one another to align the first and second locking holes **50a**, **50b**. In some embodiments, the first and second locking flanges **52a**, **52b** are not only parallel to one another, but also are arranged in contact with one another when the lockout tagout device **20** is in the closed configuration. In such embodiments, a surface **54** of the first locking flange **52a** may be complementary to the adjacent surface **56** of the second locking flange **52b**. While these surfaces **54**, **56** may have a generally planar configuration, in other embodiments, these surfaces **54**, **56** may be contoured. In the non-limiting embodiment illustrated in the FIGS., each of the contoured surfaces **54**, **56** has a curvature formed therein and when the lockout tagout device **20** is in the closed configuration, the curved surfaces **54**, **56** are flush against one another. Inclusion of such a curvature may prevent the lockout tagout device **20** from binding as it transforms to the closed configuration.

[0045] The lockout tagout device **20** may additionally include an opening **58** for receiving a lanyard therein. In the illustrated, non-limiting embodiment, a tether arm **59** protrudes radially outwardly from the sidewall **28** of the body **22**. Although the tether arm **59** is illustrated as being arranged at the first body portion **40a**, it should be understood that in other embodiments a tether arm **59** may be alternatively or additionally be arranged at the second body portion **40b**. The tether arm **59** may be oriented such that the opening **58** formed therein extends generally parallel to at least one of the longitudinal axis of the fitting **10** and the rotational axis X of the hinge **46**.

[0046] In an embodiment, a first engagement member **60**, such as a tab for example, extends from the surface **42** of the first body portion **40a**. A corresponding recess **62** may be formed in the second body portion **40b**. Further, a second engagement member **64**, such as a tooth for example, may protrude radially outwardly from the second body portion **40b** at an edge of the recess **62**. When the lockout tagout device **20** is in the closed configuration, the first engagement member **60** may be arranged in contact with the second engagement member **64**. For example, an end **66** of the first engagement member **60** may abut against a surface **68** (FIG. 1) of the second engagement member **64**. The surface **68** of the second engagement member **64** may be arranged at a non-zero angle relative to the surface **44** of the second body portion **40b** and to the end **66** of the first engagement member **60**. This engagement between the first engagement member **60** and the second engagement member **64** may assist in retaining the body **22** in the closed configuration. Further, by having the second engagement member **64** protrude beyond the exterior surface of the sidewall **28**, the second engagement member **64** may provide a contact point for a user, allowing the lockout tagout device **20** to be opened. It should be understood that although the first engagement member **60** is illustrated and described herein as being associated with the first body portion **40a**, in other embodiments, a first engagement member **60** may be associated with the second body portion **40b**.

and a recess **62** and second engagement member **64** may be associated with the first body portion **40a**.

[0047] When the lockout tagout device **20** is in the closed configuration about a fitting **10**, the lockout tagout device **20** may form a seal with the fitting **10**. With reference now to FIG. 5, the interface between the first end **24** of the body **22** and the fitting **10** is illustrated in more detail. As shown, an interior surface of the cavity **36** at a location adjacent to the opening **30** may include a sloped surface **70**. The sloped surface **70** may be configured to contact or engage a corresponding surface of the fitting **10**, such as to restrict separation of the fitting **10** from the lockout tagout device **20**. The angle of the surface **70** may control the contact area between the body **22** and the fitting **10**. A surface of the fitting **10**, also referred to herein as a fitting surface, may alternatively or additionally be tapered or sloped. The fitting surface **72** may be arranged between the first location **32** and the second location **34** of the fitting **10**, such as directly adjacent to the second location **34** for example. In such embodiments, the slope or angle of the surface **70** of the body **22** may be generally equal to the slope or angle of the corresponding fitting surface **72**, such as within ± 2 degrees for example. In an embodiment, the surface **70** is arranged at a 45-degree angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the body **22**. However, embodiments where the angles of the surfaces **70**, **72** are different are also contemplated herein.

[0048] In operation, a user will position a lockout tagout device **20** in an open configuration about the fitting. As shown, the fitting **10** will be positioned with the flange or second location **34** of the fitting arranged within the cavity **36** and the first location **32** at the opening **30** formed in the first end **24** of the first body portion **40a**. A user will then rotate the second body portion **40a** about the axis X of the hinge **46** toward the first body portion **40a** until reaching a closed configuration. In the closed configuration, the surfaces **42**, **44** of the first and second body portions **40a**, **40b** abut one another, the first and second locking flanges **52a**, **52b** abut one another, and/or the end **66** of the first engagement member **60** is in contact with the surface **68** of the second engagement member **64**. It should be understood that a user can easily insert the fitting **10** and transform the lockout tagout device to a closed configuration using one hand. Once in the closed configuration, a lock may be inserted through the aligned locking holes **50a**, **50b** to retain the lockout tagout device **20** in the closed configuration coupled to the fitting **10**.

[0049] A lockout tagout device **20** as illustrated and described herein has a confined size suitable for use in applications with limited space surrounding the component that the lockout tagout device **20**. The lockout tagout device **20** additionally does not allow metal to metal contact with the fitting **10**. A portion of the body positionable in contact with the fitting, such as the internal cavity **36** or a surface thereof, the sloped surface **70**, and/or the surface defining the opening **30** formed in the body **22** for example, are not formed from a metal material. Further, the lockout tagout device **20** complies with all relevant OSHA standards, such as OSHA 29 CFR 1910.147, relative to the control of energy sources.

[0050] The term “about” is intended to include the degree of error associated with measurement of the particular quantity based upon the equipment available at the time of filing the application.

[0051] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the present disclosure. As used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms “comprises” and/or “comprising,” when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, element components, and/or groups thereof.

[0052] While the present disclosure has been described with reference to an exemplary embodiment or embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular

situation or material to the teachings of the present disclosure without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it is intended that the present disclosure not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed as the best mode contemplated for carrying out this present disclosure, but that the present disclosure will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the claims.

Claims

1. A lockout tagout device associated with a fitting comprising: a body, the body having a first body portion and a second body portion, the second body portion being movable relative to the first body portion about an axis of rotation to transform the body between a closed configuration and an open configuration; and wherein the lockout tagout device is connectable to the fitting such that the axis of rotation is oriented parallel to a longitudinal axis of the fitting.
2. The lockout tagout device of claim 1, wherein the body has a first end, a second end, a sidewall extending between the first end and the second end, and an internal cavity, the first end having an opening for receiving the fitting formed therein.
3. The lockout tagout device of claim 2, wherein each of the first body portion and the second body portion, respectively, defines part of the first end, the second end, and the sidewall.
4. The lockout tagout device of claim 2, wherein an end of the fitting is receivable within the internal cavity and a diameter of the opening is smaller than a diameter of the end of the fitting receivable within the internal cavity.
5. The lockout tagout device of claim 2, wherein the internal cavity includes a sloped surface, the sloped surface being positionable in contact with a fitting surface to form a seal between the body and the fitting.
6. The lockout tagout device of claim 5, wherein the sloped surface is complementary to the fitting surface.
7. The lockout tagout device of claim 2, wherein the first body portion includes a first locking hole and the second body portion includes a second locking hole, the first locking hole being arranged at a non-parallel angle to the second locking hole when the body is in the open configuration, and the first locking hole being aligned with the second locking hole when the body is in the closed configuration.
8. The lockout tagout device of claim 7, wherein the first body portion includes a first locking flange extending from the second end of the body and the second body portion includes a second locking flange extending from the second end of the body, the first locking hole being formed in the first locking flange and the second locking hole being formed in the second locking flange.
9. The lockout tagout device of claim 8, wherein the first locking flange has a first contoured surface and the second locking flange has a second contoured surface, the first contoured surface being complementary to the second contoured surface.
10. The lockout tagout device of claim 2, wherein the first body portion includes a first engagement member and the second body portion includes a second engagement member, the first engagement member being arranged in contact with the second engagement member when the body is in the closed configuration.
11. The lockout tagout device of claim 10, wherein the second engagement member protrudes radially outwardly beyond the sidewall.
12. The lockout tagout device of claim 1, wherein the body further comprises a tether arm having an opening, the opening being arranged parallel to the axis of rotation.
13. The lockout tagout device of claim 1, wherein the body is formed from a non-metallic material.
14. A lockout tagout assembly comprising: a fitting; a lockout tagout device connectable to the fitting, the lockout tagout device including a body, the body having a first body portion and a second body portion, the second body portion being movable relative to the first body portion to transform the body between a closed configuration and an open configuration; and wherein a

portion of the body is positionable in contact with the fitting and the portion of the body that is positionable in contact with the fitting is not formed from a metal material.

15. The lockout tagout assembly of claim 14, wherein the body further comprises a first end, a second end, a sidewall extending between the first end and the second end, and an internal cavity, wherein the internal cavity is not formed from the metal material.

16. The lockout tagout assembly of claim 15, wherein the first end includes an opening, and the fitting is positionable within the opening such that an end of the fitting is arranged within the internal cavity.

17. The lockout tagout assembly of claim 16, wherein a diameter of the opening is smaller than a diameter of a portion of the fitting receivable within the internal cavity.

18. The lockout tagout assembly of claim 15, wherein the internal cavity includes a sloped surface, the sloped surface being positionable in contact with a fitting surface to form a seal between the body and the fitting.

19. The lockout tagout assembly of claim 18, wherein the sloped surface is complementary to the fitting surface.

20. The lockout tagout assembly of claim 14, wherein the second body portion is movable relative to the first body portion about an axis of rotation and the axis of rotation is oriented parallel to a longitudinal axis of the fitting.
