

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement for use with a piece of equipment, the safety arrangement comprising:

a signal generating unit for generating an optical signal;

an elongate element to be permanently disposed along, about, around or through the piece of equipment and positioned and oriented so that an operator can manually pull the elongate element to alter an operating condition of the piece of equipment, the elongate element being capable of transmitting an optical signal; and

a signal detecting unit for detecting an optical signal;

the signal generating unit being connected to the signal detecting unit by the elongate element, such that the signal detecting unit is in optical communication with the signal generating unit, the signal detecting unit being arranged to detect a change in the optical signal transmitted by the elongate element as a consequence of movement of the elongate element by interaction from the operator and, upon detection of the change in the signal, the detecting unit is configured to effect a change in the operation of the piece of equipment; and

wherein the signal generating unit comprises a laser.

2. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the piece of equipment is a conveyor belt.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal detecting unit comprises a photo detector.

5. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate element comprises an optical fibre.

6. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 5, wherein the optical fibre extends along a support cable.

7. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 6, wherein the support cable is provided with protrusions.

8. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 6, wherein the support cable is electrically conductive.

9. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate element comprises two optical fibres.

10. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detecting unit is, upon detection in the change of the optical signal, configured to directly affect the operation of the piece of equipment.

11. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detecting unit is, upon detection in the change of the optical signal, configured to indirectly affect the operation of the piece of equipment.

12. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon detection of the change in the signal, the detecting unit is configured to effect the prevention of the supply of power to the piece of equipment.

13. (Original) A safety arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon detection of the change in the signal, the detecting unit is configured to effect the prevention of movement of at least a part of the equipment.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of affecting the operation of a piece of equipment, the piece of equipment being provided with an elongate element that is capable of transmitting an optical signal, and which is disposed along, about, around or through the piece of equipment for being manipulated by an operator to cause a change of shape of the elongate element, the method comprising:

 sending an optical signal along the elongate element;

 monitoring the optical signal sent along the elongate element for changes in the optical signal caused by changes in shape of the elongate element due to operator pulling of the elongate element; and

 if a change in the optical signal is detected as a consequence of movement of the elongate element caused by direct operator interaction with the elongate element anywhere along the longitudinal length of the elongate element, affecting the operation of the piece of equipment.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the piece of equipment is a conveyor belt.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the elongate element comprises an optical fibre.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the detected change is a change in intensity of the optical signal sent along the elongate element.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the detected change is a change in a wavelength of the optical signal sent along the elongate element.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the detected change is a change in a time of flight of the optical signal sent along the elongate element.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the detected change is a change in a polarization state of the optical signal sent along the elongate element.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein two signals are sent along the elongate element.

23. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the detected change is a change in phase between the two signals.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the signal is continuous.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the signal comprises a plurality of pulses.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein affecting the operation of the piece of equipment comprises preventing power being supplied to the piece of equipment.

27. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein affecting the operation of the piece of equipment comprises preventing movement of at least a part of the piece of equipment.

28-35. (Cancelled)