

**BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES**  
**Outside Plant Construction**  
**and Maintenance**

**SECTION G97.521.1**  
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## SL CONNECTING PINS

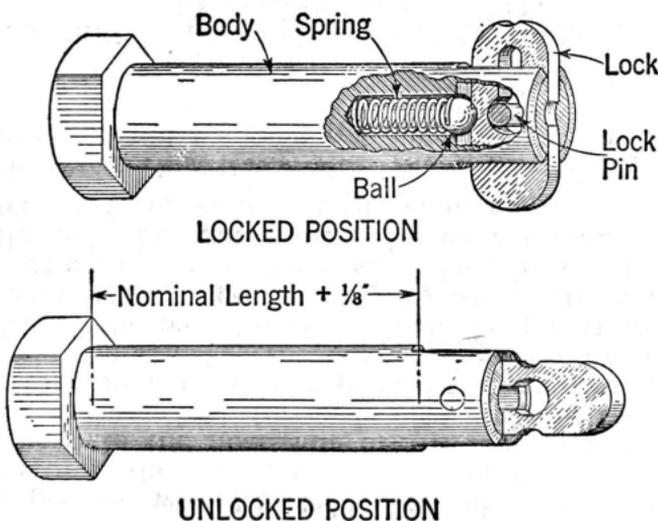
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### 1. GENERAL

1.01 SL Connecting Pins are small quick-locking pins for use in the assembly and disassembly of construction apparatus. The pins are provided in either 1/2 in. or 5/8 in. diameter and in various nominal lengths.

### 2. DESCRIPTION AND NAMES OF PARTS

2.01 SL Connecting Pins consist of a steel body with either a round, hexagonal or square head on one end and a locking assembly on the other end.



2.02 To provide working clearance and to compensate for variations the actual measured length of the pin from under the head to the near side of the lock is about 1/8 in. longer than the nominal (or ordering) length. The nominal length pin used in a particular piece of equipment should be approximately the same as the outside diameter of the tubing or the width of the part through which the pin is to be used. In some cases it may be necessary to use a pin longer than required because a pin of the desired length is not available. This should only be done when the excess length will not interfere with safe operation of the equipment.

2.03 When ordering these pins, the diameter and nominal length should be specified, such as "1/2 in. x 2 in."

### 3. PRECAUTIONS

3.01 Each time before a pin is used it should be examined to determine its general condition. The lock should be operated to determine that the ball seats in the indent of the lock as evidenced by the click and snap of the lock into its final locked position. Never use a pin which has a broken spring or which is otherwise defective.

3.02 If it should be necessary to hammer on a pin to drive it in or out of an assembly or to remove ice from the lock, the blows should be light to avoid damaging the locking assembly.

3.03 The pins should be kept clean and properly lubricated.

3.04 The SL pin must not be used where there will be any load carried by the lock; the lock is intended solely to prevent the pin from coming out of the assembly.

### 4. OPERATION

4.01 The locked and unlocked positions of the locking assembly are shown in the figures following Paragraph 2.01.

4.02 To operate the lock from the unlocked position to the locked position proceed as follows:

(a) Press on the end of the lock to rotate it around the lock pin 90 degrees.

(b) With lock at 90 degrees to the body of the pin, press on the end of the lock to slide it until the enlarged end of the slot reaches the lock pin at which time the ball will snap into the indent on the side of the lock.

4.03 To operate the lock from the locked position to the unlocked position proceed as follows:

- (a) Press on the end of the lock with the slot in it, until this end of the lock is flush with the side of the pin body.
- (b) Press on the opposite end of the lock to rotate the lock 90 degrees around the lock pin. The lock will snap into the final unlocked position as the spring presses the ball into the indent on the end of the lock.

4.04 Before placing a pin in an assembly, inspect it for cracks and defects and operate it to the locked position to determine that the locking assembly is operating satisfactorily.

4.05 To place a pin in an assembly, operate it to the unlocked position, place it through the desired parts of the assembly and operate the pin to the locked position. When operating to the locked position make sure the lock snaps into its final position.

## 5. CLEANING

5.01 To clean the pin, dip the locking assembly end into a solvent such as kerosene or light oil. Agitate to remove dirt, remove pin from solvent, operate lock several times and wipe off dirt and solvent. Several applications of solvent accompanied by numerous operations of the lock may be required to remove dirt and provide a freely operating locking mechanism.

## 6. LUBRICATION

6.01 These pins are treated with a rust inhibiting oil after they are manufactured and should not require lubrication before initial use. Subsequent lubrication should be with a light rust inhibiting oil.

6.02 After a pin has been cleaned it should be lubricated by standing it on the "head" end with the body vertical and the lock in the unlocked position and applying several drops of oil to the locking mechanism. Operate the locking mechanism several times and wipe off excess oil.