

Sheraton Hotel gets fool-proof electronic locks

A state-of-the art electronic locking system that makes undetected room entry virtually impossible is being installed at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

The hotel has invested \$120,000 in a sophisticated Saflok microcomputer-controlled system, according to David P. Cocks, general manager. Cocks said installation should be complete in all 401 Sheraton Anchorage guest rooms and suites by March 31. He said the Sheraton is the only Alaska hotel to offer such a foolproof electronic security system to its guests.

The system offers two important features. First, it provides a uniquely encoded keycard for each guest and room, effectively "changing the lock" each time a guest checks in. And, second, it contains a data retrieval unit which tracks each entry into the room. It records the date and time of each entry and can identify the type of card used and to whom the card has been assigned. If a guest finds evidence of an unauthorized entry, management can withdraw from the computer enough information to track down precisely who was in and out of the room and when.

A similar system was installed

with excellent results at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York City, according to Cocks. He said the Sheraton Anchorage system is Saflok's newest model and features a recyclable magnetic strip card instead of a hole-punched card which has to be discarded after every use.

The Sheraton Anchorage is now among the one-in-every-ten hotels offering electronic lock systems to ensure guest security and Cocks says he foresees the eventual changover from keys to electronic systems in most major hotels. "It is a feature corporate travelers and frequent vacationers are coming to expect in first-class properties," he said. "It is very important to guests, like getting their phone messages. That's why we are spending the money."