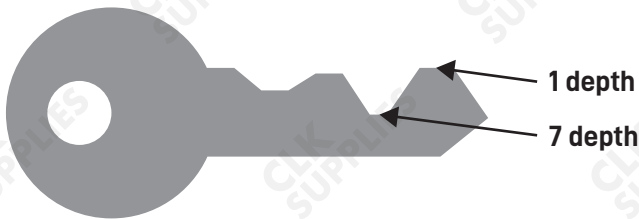# MACS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

MACS = Maximum Adjacent Cut Specification

MACS is the maximum allowed distance between cuts. If the difference between the cuts is greater than the number specified by the manufacturer of the particular lock, the key will not work properly.

1 depth

7 depth
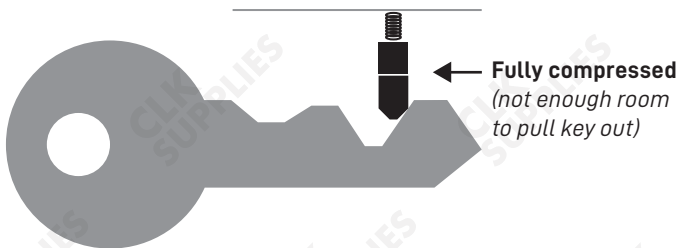
$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ -7 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$

The difference is 6, thus violating the MACS value of 5.

For example

If the MACS is 5, you can't put a 1 depth and a 7 depth next to each other, because the distance/number between the two is 6, which is greater than 5. If this happens, you usually won't be able to push the key into the lock. Even if you can, you won't be able to pull it out.

Why?

When the distance between depths exceeds the MACS value, there is not enough space for the spring and pins in the bible (cylinder) of the lock to clear the key (cuts).

Fully compressed
(not enough room to pull key out)

Brand	MACS Value
Arrow	7
Corbin Russwin DH & Z Class	4
Corbin X Class	8
Corbin Z Class	8
Kwikset	4
Russwin DH Class	7
Sargent	7
Schlage	7
Weiser	5
Weslock	6
Yale	5