



From locks to AdBlue

New locks for doors and hatches are reasserting the leading status of FAP in the production of locks for recreational vehicles. The company has also demonstrated to have the skills to work in other areas by launching an AdBlue tank refilling system.

Words Andrea Cattaneo - photo Enrico Bona

Variety is perhaps the most distinguishing feature of the FAP range today, allowing the Italian company to secure a leading position in the RV field. The FAP product catalogue includes locks and handles for living pod doors and for various types of hatches with standard and premium models, including automatic versions. In parallel, they make plastic elements, such as caps and unions for water systems. After all, the company was established with as a plastic component manufacturer in the late 1960s. The market has rewarded the ability to provide the right answers to specific needs and FAP ended 2018 with growth close to 10%, hot on the heels of 2017 which was also a very positive year. "We have hired new people to meet the increase in orders coming from European markets where we have a leading position", explained Lapo Ermini, CEO of FAP. Great satisfactions also came from the Chinese market, which is still small but growing exponentially and our sales have doubled every year for the past three years. Today, China accounts for 7% of our turnover, which was unthinkable just a few years ago. However, we are also present also in other consolidated

markets, such as Australia, South Africa, Japan and Korea. Basically, we are wherever RV manufacturers are. Also in North America, despite its reputation as being a tough market. Numbers are high, but manufacturers are still tied to traditional products. However, we have recently seen signs of them opening up to more modern and cooler products with more current designs. We have certified locks for the American market and important manufacturers will be fitting doors with our locks next season too".

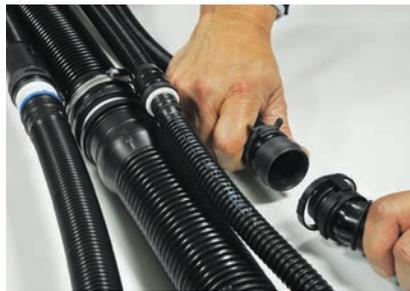
FAP is ready to take on 2020 with plenty of news, some of which was presented at the Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf.





AdBlue refilling system

Very noteworthy is the system created by FAP to meet the needs of manufacturers facing the problem of AdBlue tank refilling. The new Fiat Ducato mechanics came all too suddenly for most manufacturers, who needed to rethink their vehicles from a technical point of view in function of this new component, which increases the weight of the base vehicle by about 30 kg and also requires a special refuelling system. On vehicles without original cab, that is on full-body motorhomes, the problem was to insert a filler on the side and to create a system of pipes capable of reaching the AdBlue tank. FAP understood the need for manufacturers to have a specific solution and capitalised on decades of experience in the production of various types of unions to provide an answer. It was not an easy task because materials and components certified for automotive applications had to be found. The most problematic components were the pipes and the quick release connectors that make assembly quick and easy. Furthermore, a system had to be designed so as to be easy to install and also accessible for servicing. The challenge was won and FAP can now provide a complete system to manufacturers. It is offered as a complete system or as single components. FAP has already signed supply agreements with various companies belonging to the major European groups in the RVs sector. The original Fiat cap and filler are supplied for diesel fuel and AdBlue with a special extension. The ability of FAP to respond to market needs is therefore not limited to locks and extends to other areas.



Button-operated motorised lock

The button-operated motorised lock is particularly interesting. It is automatic, compressing and closing automatically using a small electric motor. If desired, it can be connected to the central locking system of the RV. In addition to automatic closing, it can be optionally equipped with a button for automated opening.

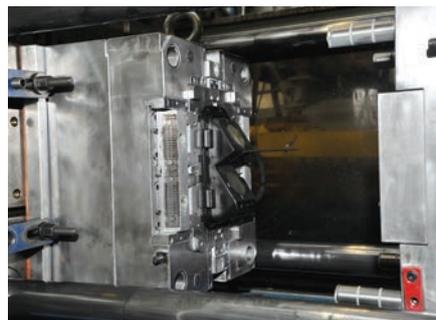
A new deadbolt lock for hatches

FAP also has a new deadbolt lock for hatches with two or even three locking points. Appropriate cables of the requisite length join the locking points, so the system can be adapted to hatches of various sizes. The opening handle is positioned at the desired point to be comfortable for people of any height and can be operated only with one hand, leaving the other hand free.



Pop top closing system

It is also worth mentioning a very special product created for the Rapido Group. This is a closing system for the pop top of vans. It consists of a handle in the middle of the top and a lock with snap closure. The system allows the pop top to be closed from inside and will be fitted by various Rapido Group brands, starting from Westphalia. It is a bespoke product demonstrating the ability of FAP to respond to specific requests of individual manufacturers. The company analysed the requirement and offered the best solution based on costs and assembly constraints.



Company Profile

Since nearly half century, FAP is involved in the production of plastic accessories, but not only. The founder approached R.V. market in 1968, listening suggestion of two entrepreneurs (namely Mr. Luano Niccolai from Rimor and Mr. Giovanbattista Moscardini from Laika) that made history on this field. In 1982 FAP entered also the rail way sector supplying interior decoration. Production and ware house is located in Florence in a building of 4.000 covered square meter. FAP is today covering 80% of European market needs for R.V. door locks, having good and friendly connection with door manufacturers and Motor home manufacturers.

