Lelek’s conjecture which states that metric continua with span zero are chainable has been one of the most widely investigated problems in continuum theory over the past 40 years. We broaden our field of interest to non-metric continua and prove that if there is a non-metric counterexample to Lelek’s conjecture we can convert it to a metric one. For a continuum X we take the lattice of all of its closed subsets 2X and consider a countable elementary sublattice L of 2X that we represent by a metric continuum wL via the Wallman representation for distributive lattices. By means of set theory, we obtain an L such that X is not chainable if and only if wL is not chainable and X has span zero if and only if wL has span zero. In the proof of the latter we use Shelah’s theorem stating that every two elementarily equivalent models have isomorphic ultrapowers.