

Complete Guide to **Push Pull Tools** & Hands-Free Load Control Tools

How no-touch safety tools help keep hands away from pinch points, crush zones, suspended load swing paths, sharp edges, hot surfaces, and line-of-fire hazards.

Push / Pull / Guide / Retrieve

Suspended Load Control

Pinch Point Prevention

No-Touch Handling

Explore Tool Types

View Product Solutions

Download Guide ↓

Engineer the Hand out of Hazard™

50%

OF O&G INJURIES ARE HAND & FINGER INJURIES
(IOGP/SPE)

20+

INDUSTRIES WHERE HANDS-FREE LOAD CONTROL IS
CRITICAL

100+

SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS DOCUMENTED IN THIS GUIDE

\$13.7K+

MEDIAN DIRECT COST OF A SINGLE LOST-TIME HAND
INJURY (CDC/NIOSH)

10

HAZARD CATEGORIES ADDRESSED BY HANDS-FREE
TOOLS

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SECTION 01

What Are Push Pull Tools and Hands-Free Load Control Tools?

Push pull tools and hands-free load control tools are industrial safety tools used to guide, push, pull, position, retrieve, and control loads without placing hands directly on the load. They help reduce exposure to **pinch points, crush zones, suspended load swing paths, sharp edges, hot surfaces, and line-of-fire hazards**. Common types include push-pull poles, V-head tools, hook tools, taglines, magnetic load control tools, retrieval tools, lifting aids, and impact isolation tools.

The defining principle is **physical separation**: the tool makes contact with the load; the worker's hands, fingers, and body remain at a safe working distance. This separation is what helps prevent crush injuries, pinch point incidents, struck-by accidents, and line-of-fire exposures — the hazard patterns that make load handling one of the leading sources of serious hand injuries in industrial work.

Hands-free load control is not a single product. It is a task design approach — the **No-Touch Load Control Framework™** — in which every task involving load contact is evaluated for



Distance Before Contact™

The core principle: do not guide, steady, align, or position hazardous loads by bare hand. Use a site-approved hands-free load control method — push pull tool, tagline, magnetic tool, hook tool, retrieval tool, lifting aid, or other engineered no-touch handling aid.

whether the hand can be replaced by a tool, tagline, magnetic engagement, or lifting aid.



Hands-Off Task Protocol™

A structured site-level process for identifying tasks where hand contact with loads or hazard zones occurs, then redesigning those tasks using the appropriate hands-free method for the temperature zone, load type, and required standoff distance.

SECTION 02

Why Hand Injuries Happen During Routine Load Handling

Most hand injuries in industrial environments occur during tasks that workers perform every day – not in dramatic accidents, but in ordinary moments when the hand enters the hazard zone.



Steadying Swinging Loads

Workers instinctively reach out to stop or steady a swinging suspended load. The hand enters the swing and fall zone. Any unexpected movement crushes or strikes the hand against a fixed surface.



Aligning Holes and Flanges

Bolt hole and flange alignment requires fingers inside the convergence zone between two heavy surfaces. The load does not need to move far to cause a crush or amputation injury.



Pushing into Final Position

Final positioning of heavy components – into fixtures, onto saddles, against abutments –



Retrieving Taglines and Slings

Reaching into rigging areas to retrieve taglines, chains, or slings after a lift places the hand

places the hand between the load and the receiving surface. The last few millimetres are where most injuries happen.

near load contact points and below suspended components.



Holding Parts During Impact Work

One hand holds the chisel, punch, or flogging spanner while the other hand strikes. Every missed strike — or rebound — sends force directly into the holding hand.



Handling Hot, Sharp, or Unstable Objects

Direct hand contact with freshly processed castings, steel edges, or chemically contaminated components during repositioning, staging, or transfer operations.



The Core Insight

The issue is not only worker behaviour. The issue is task design. If completing a task requires a hand in the hazard zone, the task needs to be redesigned — not just the glove upgraded.

Engineer the Hand out of Hazard™

SECTION 03

PPE Reduces Severity. Engineering Controls Reduce Exposure.

The hierarchy of controls is one of the most important principles in occupational safety. Understanding where hands-free tools sit in that hierarchy explains why they provide a stronger level of protection than PPE alone.

1

Elimination

Remove the hazard entirely

Gloves are important and must remain part of the PPE programme for most industrial tasks. But a glove cannot move the hand out of a crush zone. It cannot stop a suspended load from

Substitution

2

Replace with a less hazardous method

Engineering Controls

3

Push pull tools, taglines, magnetic tools, retrieval tools, chisel holders

4

Administrative Controls

Procedures, training, JSA, lift plans

5

PPE

Gloves – last line of defence, not first

swinging. It cannot prevent a finger from entering a pinch point.

Push pull tools, taglines, magnetic tools, retrieval tools, and chisel holders are **engineering controls** because they change the physical task — they reduce the frequency and duration of hand exposure to hazard zones, rather than attempting to protect the hand once it is already there.

The practical goal is not to choose between PPE and engineering controls. The goal is to apply the highest level of control possible for each task, then use PPE as the layer below it — not as the primary protection.

Hands-free tools sit at Level 3 in the hierarchy. That is three levels above gloves.

SECTION 04

Hazard Categories Addressed by Hands-Free Load Control Tools

Hands-free tools are relevant wherever one of these ten hazard conditions is present during load handling, positioning, or assembly operations.

HAZARD 01

⚠️ Suspended Load Hazard

What happens: Worker positioned below or adjacent to a crane or hoist-suspended load. Any unplanned movement can result in crush or struck-by injury.

How hands-free helps: The tool provides

HAZARD 02

🔴 Pinch Points

What happens: A body part is caught between a moving load and a fixed surface — the most common cause of finger amputations in industrial settings.

How hands-free helps: The tool contacts

standoff distance; the operator remains outside the fall and swing zone.

the load; the worker's hands remain outside the convergence zone.

HAZARD 03

Crush Zones

What happens: A load descends toward a fixed surface with a body part in the convergence zone. Crushing forces can be many multiples of load weight during deceleration.

How hands-free helps: The operator controls from a safe distance; body never positioned under or alongside the load.

HAZARD 04

Struck-By Hazards

What happens: A swinging, rolling, or unexpectedly moving load contacts the worker. Sea swell, wind, and off-centre rigging all contribute to unpredictable load movement.

How hands-free helps: The tool extends the worker's reach; clearance from the full swing arc is maintained.

HAZARD 05

Caught-Between

What happens: Body compressed between two converging surfaces during equipment installation, module mating, or structural connection.

How hands-free helps: The operator guides from outside the convergence zone entirely.

HAZARD 06

Line-of-Fire Exposure

What happens: Worker positioned in the path of potential energy release — where any equipment failure or load shift would send energy directly toward them.

How hands-free helps: The operator's body is repositioned outside the line-of-fire zone.

HAZARD 07

Hot Surface Proximity

What happens: Workers reach near hot materials — freshly processed steel, hot castings, or process piping — risking severe burns.

How hands-free helps: Distance is the protection; the operator's hands never contact the hot load. *Note: standard polymer/rubber*

HAZARD 08

Sharp Edge Contact

What happens: Direct contact with cut edges of steel plate, structural sections, or castings causes lacerations from minor to amputating severity.

How hands-free helps: The tool head contacts the load; the worker's skin never touches the sharp edge.

tool heads are not rated for sustained direct contact with thermally extreme surfaces.

HAZARD 09

Electrical Contact Hazard

What happens: Guiding loads near live electrical equipment creates a current path through any conductive tool — potentially lethal at HV proximity.

How hands-free helps: Non-conductive fiberglass shaft tools rated to 35kV/inch provide no conductive current path through the tool.

HAZARD 10

Unstable Load Contact

What happens: Direct hand contact with an unstable, unbalanced, or shifting load. When the load moves unexpectedly, the worker holding it has no safe escape path.

How hands-free helps: Safe distance means the operator can step back; no hand contact to release.

SECTION 05

Common Types of Push Pull and No-Touch Safety Tools

Not every task requires the same tool. Understanding the function of each tool type is the first step in selecting the right hands-free method for each task.

TOOL TYPE 01

Push Pull Tools / Push Pull Sticks

The most versatile hands-free load control tool. Used for pushing, pulling, guiding, and positioning loads from a safer working distance. Typically constructed from high-strength fiberglass (non-conductive) or engineered polymers, with a push head and ergonomic handle. Available in multiple lengths to suit confined spaces through to large offshore crane lifts. Can include hook features for tagline retrieval.

TOOL TYPE 02

V-Head Load Control Tools

Push pull tools fitted with a V-shaped or dual-profile head designed to engage cylindrical, tubular, and irregular load profiles without slipping. The V geometry naturally centres on round sections — pipes, tubes, beams, frames — and holds engagement during directional control.

Primary uses: Drill pipe and casing guidance, tubular positioning, pipe spool handling, beam alignment at connections.

Primary uses: Suspended load guidance, final positioning, pipe and component alignment, load landing, structural steel placement.

TOOL TYPE 03

Hook Tools and Retrieval Tools

Purpose-designed tools for retrieving taglines, slings, chains, shackles, cables, and components without reaching into hazard zones. Hook geometry allows the operator to engage a loop, sling eye, or component from a safe distance and guide it out of the hazard area. Some designs combine push-pull and hook functions in a single tool.

Primary uses: Tagline retrieval, sling and chain recovery, rigging hook-up assistance, confined space load handling.

TOOL TYPE 04

Taglines and Load Control Lines

Rope or synthetic taglines attached to suspended loads to provide directional control during crane lifts. The operator holds the tagline from outside the fall zone and applies gentle tension to orient, steady, or slow rotation of the load. Taglines are an engineering control — they physically separate the operator's hands from the suspended load during the entire lift.

Primary uses: Suspended load orientation, swing control, rotation prevention, directional guidance during landing.

TOOL TYPE 05

Magnetic Load Control Tools

Permanent magnet or switchable magnet tools that engage ferrous steel surfaces without direct hand contact. Useful for handling cold steel components, picking up dropped parts, clearing machining chips, and component staging. **Important limitation:** Magnetic tools must only be used on ambient ferrous surfaces. Heat reduces magnetic holding force significantly, making them unsuitable for hot castings, melt shop environments, or temperature-sensitive applications.

⚠ Caution: Not suitable for hot surfaces, non-ferrous materials, or any area where surface temperature may affect magnetic holding force. Hot and molten zones — mechanical tools only.

TOOL TYPE 06

Impact Isolation Tools

Chisel holders, punch holders, Fingersaver-style tools, and wrench guards designed to remove the holding hand from the hammer and impact strike zone. In normal chisel or punch work, one hand holds the tool while the other strikes — placing the holding hand in the direct path of every miss, rebound, or glancing blow. Impact isolation tools grip the chisel or punch and hold it securely while the operator's hand holds the device, not the struck tool.

Primary uses: Chipping, chiselling, punch work, flogging spanner operations, stake driving.

TOOL TYPE 07

Manual Lifting Aids

Handles, carrying slings, pipe lifting grips, valve lifting bails, and ergonomic grips that reduce direct hand contact with sharp, awkward, hot, or heavy items during manual handling. They provide a safe, secure grip point and help distribute load over more of the hand and body, reducing exposure to sharp edges and hot surfaces during short-distance carries and repositioning tasks.

Primary uses: Pipe and spool carries, plate and panel handling, valve and equipment repositioning, component staging.

SECTION 06

How to Select the Right Hands-Free Tool

Tool selection should start with the task – what is the hand currently doing, and what tool or method can replace that hand contact?

TASK NEED	TOOL TYPE	TYPICAL USE
Push / position	Push pull tool	Load landing, pipe alignment, fixture positioning, structural steel placement
Pull / retrieve	Hook / retrieval tool	Tagline retrieval, slings, chains, cables, confined space load handling
Control suspended load direction	Tagline	Crane lifts, large suspended components, swing and rotation control
Engage ambient ferrous surface	Magnetic tool	Cold steel parts, CNC chip clearing, component staging, dropped object recovery
Keep hands away from hammer strike	Impact isolation tool	Chisel, punch, flogging spanner, stake, rivet work

TASK NEED	TOOL TYPE	TYPICAL USE
Carry awkward, sharp, or hot material	Manual lifting aid	Pipes, plates, valves, components, assemblies in short-range manual moves

The correct tool depends on temperature, load material, surface shape, direction of force, required standoff distance, and whether the load is suspended, hot, sharp, unstable, or energised. The first question is never: which product do we have? The first question is: what is the hand currently doing, and how do we remove that hand from the hazard?

SECTION 07

Zone-Based Tool Selection: Hot, Ambient, Suspended, and Electrical Areas

Not every tool is suitable in every environment. Zone-based selection is a critical part of the No-Touch Load Control Framework™ – the zone determines which tool types are appropriate before task-level selection begins.

ZONE	TYPICAL AREA	SUITABLE TOOLS	AVOID
MOLTEN / EXTREME HEAT	Foundry, melt shop, ladle area, tapping floor	Heat-rated all-metal mechanical tools only	<i>POLYMER HEADS</i> <i>STANDARD TAGLINES</i> <i>MAGNETIC TOOLS</i>
HOT RESIDUAL	Hot castings, hot steel, process piping, shakeout area, fettling	Mechanical distance tools, heat-rated heads	<i>MAGNETIC TOOLS (UNLESS TEMPERATURE-RATED)</i>
AMBIENT INDUSTRIAL	CNC machining, cold assembly, warehousing, fabrication	Push pull tools, taglines, magnetic tools, retrieval tools	<i>WRONG-LENGTH TOOLS</i> <i>UNRATED IMPROVISED TOOLS</i>
ELECTRICAL PROXIMITY	Substations, switchgear rooms, transformer bays, HV utilities	Non-conductive tools (fiberglass, rated polymer) where suitable	<i>CONDUCTIVE METAL TOOLS</i> <i>IMPROVISED RODS</i>

ZONE	TYPICAL AREA	SUITABLE TOOLS	AVOID
SUSPENDED LOAD ZONE	Crane bays, rigging areas, offshore crane decks, rig floors	Taglines, push pull tools from outside fall zone	<i>BARE-HAND GUIDING</i> <i>POSITION INSIDE FALL ZONE</i>



Zone-First Selection Rule

Before selecting a tool, ask three questions: (1) What is the temperature zone? (2) What is the hand currently doing? (3) Does the task require push, pull, retrieve, guide, hold, or impact isolation? Answer the zone question first — it eliminates unsuitable tool types before individual selection begins.

SECTION 08

Push Pull Tool vs Tagline: Which Should You Use?

Both are hands-free load control methods. They serve different functions and are often used together on the same lift.

TAGLINE

Use Taglines When:

- The load is suspended and needs directional control throughout the lift
- Swing, rotation, or orientation needs to be managed from outside the fall zone
- The operator needs to remain well clear of the load path
- Multiple points of control are needed on a large or asymmetric load
- Distance from the load is greater than push pull tool reach

PUSH PULL TOOL

Use Push Pull Tools When:

- The load is landing or in final positioning phase
- A precise push, nudge, or pull is needed to align the load to its final position
- The load is being guided into a fixture, onto a saddle, or into a connection
- Hands would otherwise enter the gap between the load and the receiving surface
- Controlled contact force is needed at a specific point on the load

⚠ Never place hands on a suspended load just because the load is "almost landed"

The final phase of a crane lift — when the load is a few centimetres from its landing point — is when many crush injuries occur. The load is still suspended. Crane tension is still present. Any movement, crane drift, or sling settling can cause the load to shift. Hands should not go between the load and the receiving surface until crane tension is fully released and the load is confirmed stable.

Best practice: Use taglines for swing and directional control throughout the lift. Use push pull tools for final positioning. Release crane tension before allowing hand contact with the seated load.

SECTION 09

Where Push Pull Tools and Hands-Free Load Control Tools Are Used

Hands-free load control is relevant in every industry where loads are guided, positioned, or controlled near workers' hands and bodies.



OIL & GAS

Offshore & Onshore Drilling

- Guiding drill pipe and HWDP to rotary table
- Positioning casing joints during running operations
- Landing BOP stacks and subsea equipment
- Managing pipe bundles on catwalk and pipe deck
- Offshore deck cargo container landing from crane

PINCH POINT

CRUSH ZONE

SUSPENDED LOAD



STEEL & METALS

Steel & Aluminium Manufacturing

- Steel coil guidance to coil saddle and upender
- Heavy plate stacking and unstacking by crane
- Structural sections and I-beam bundle handling
- Hot ladle cover and tundish lid positioning
- Aluminium ingot and slab landing on cooling racks

DISTANCE FROM HEAT

SHARP EDGE

CRUSH ZONE



HEAVY ENGINEERING

Foundries & Cast Houses

- Hot casting transfer and repositioning
- Mould half and core set guidance
- Shakeout casting control and staging
- Fettling and grinding part repositioning
- CNC workpiece loading with hands away from fixtures

HOT SURFACE

CRUSH ZONE

PINCH POINT



CONSTRUCTION

Structural Steel & Precast

- Structural steel beam guidance to column connections
- Precast concrete panel and slab landing
- Crane-handled formwork and table form positioning
- Cable tray, HVAC duct, and MEP element placement
- Prefabricated module and skid positioning

LINE-OF-FIRE

SUSPENDED LOAD

STRUCK-BY



MARINE & MARITIME

Shipyards, Ports & Cargo Terminals

- Hull block joining during drydock assembly
- Main engine lowering into ship hull
- ISO container landing during stevedoring operations
- Project cargo and heavy machinery load-out
- Anchor chain, winch, and deck equipment positioning

SUSPENDED LOAD

CRUSH ZONE

PINCH POINT



MINING

Surface & Underground Operations

- Crusher liner and mantle installation
- Conveyor pulley and drive roller replacement
- Ground engaging tool (GET) change-outs
- Rock bolt mesh panel placement underground
- Mill liner installation in grinding mills

CAUGHT-BETWEEN

CRUSH ZONE

STRUCK-BY



POWER & UTILITIES

Generation, Transmission & Substations

- Transformer and switchgear positioning near HV equipment
- Turbine rotor installation and MRO
- Circuit breaker and MCC panel placement
- Insulator and bushing guidance during crane lift



PROCESS INDUSTRY

Refineries, Petrochemicals & Chemical Plants

- Large valve alignment during maintenance lifts
- Heat exchanger bundle push/pull during turnaround
- Reactor tray and basket positioning during shutdown
- Hot process piping section handling

→ Boiler drum and header installation

ELECTRICAL

CRUSH ZONE

LINE-OF-FIRE

→ Chemical vessel installation with contamination risk

DISTANCE FROM HEAT

CRUSH ZONE

SUSPENDED LOAD



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Offshore & Onshore Wind

- Guiding turbine blades to hub during installation
- Nacelle landing on tower top flange
- Monopile and transition piece mating
- Tower section flange alignment during stacking
- SOV cargo transfer to turbine base platforms

STRUCK-BY

CRUSH ZONE

ELECTRICAL



INFRASTRUCTURE

Railways, Aerospace & Defence

- Wheelset and bogie positioning in rail depots
- Track section and sleeper placement during renewal
- Fuselage section and wing structure joining in aerospace
- Jet engine lowering to pylon during MRO
- Defence equipment and vehicle component handling

PINCH POINT

CRUSH ZONE

LINE-OF-FIRE



MANUFACTURING

Automotive & Heavy Engineering

- Press die positioning during die change operations
- Engine and transmission lowering into vehicle chassis
- Sharp-edge body stamping transfer to fixtures
- Large CNC workpiece loading into machine tools
- Foundry casting handling — distance from heat source

PINCH POINT

SHARP EDGE

DISTANCE FROM HEAT



WAREHOUSING & LOGISTICS

Distribution, Cargo & Data Centres

- Warehouse dock crane and forklift load landing
- Cable tray installation in data centre MEP projects
- HVAC chiller and air handler installation
- Barge cargo securing and positioning
- Overhead crane load guiding in general crane bays

SUSPENDED LOAD

PINCH POINT

CRUSH ZONE

25 Common Applications for Hands-Free Load Control

Practical, hazard-validated applications across global industry where hands-free load control methods help reduce hand exposure.

01 Guiding suspended crane loads to their landing point

02 Pipe and tubular positioning on rig floors and pipe yards

03 Steel beam guidance to column connections

04 Precast concrete panel and slab landing

05 Offshore cargo basket landing from crane

06 Drill pipe and casing guidance on rig floor

07 Tagline retrieval without reaching into rigging zones

08 Slings and chain recovery after crane lifts

09 Valve alignment during maintenance and turnaround lifts

10 Heat exchanger bundle push/pull during shutdown

11 CNC workpiece loading with hands away from fixtures

12 Hot casting repositioning in foundry operations

13 Conveyor pulley and drive roller replacement

14 Crusher liner and mantle installation in mining

15 Transformer and switchgear positioning near HV equipment

16 HVAC and MEP module placement in buildings and data centres

17 Project cargo and heavy machinery load-out at ports

18 Warehouse forklift and crane load landing adjustment

19 Fabricated skid and frame positioning in fabrication shops

20 Flange alignment for final pipe bolting

21 Chisel and punch holding during impact work

22 Hot process piping distance control in refineries

23 Shipyard hull block joining and main engine lowering

24 Crane bay load guiding in general manufacturing

25 Confined space vessel entry load guidance

SECTION 11

Why Improvised Rods, Rebar, Pipes, and Wooden Sticks Are Not Safety Tools

In fabrication shops, steel yards, rig floors, and maintenance workshops worldwide, workers who need to guide a crane-handled load often reach for whatever is nearby. The intent is correct – keep hands off the load. The execution introduces new risks.

⚠️ The Improvised Tool Problem

An improvised rod solves the right problem – keeping hands off the load – but introduces substitution hazards in doing so. It has no known strength, no inspection standard, no controlled failure mode, and no specification for procurement or audit. When it slips, when the load shifts, when the balance point moves – the consequence transfers directly to the worker holding the rod.

✘ **No known strength** – never load-tested, no specification

✘ **No inspection standard** – cannot be included in pre-task checks

✘ **Unpredictable failure mode** – may bend, snap, slip, or recoil

✘ **Electrical conductivity risk** – metal rods near live equipment create current paths

✘ **Slipping and recoil risk** – force transfer back to operator on load shift

✘ **No traceability** – cannot be registered in tool inventory

✘ **No procurement specification** – no consistent standard across sites

✘ **Compliance failure** – does not meet OSHA, HSE, or ISO tool provision requirements



The Case for Engineered Tools

A purpose-designed hands-free tool is engineered, rated, inspectable, and traceable. It can be registered in a tool inventory, included in a pre-task check, and presented to a safety auditor as evidence of an engineering control. The improvised bar cannot. A single recordable hand injury carries a median direct cost of over \$13,700 (CDC/NIOSH) — a fraction of which covers a full set of engineered hands-free tools for an entire crane bay or workshop.

SECTION 12

Hand Safety First Product Solutions

Hand Safety First offers a range of engineered, purpose-designed hands-free load control tools across the HSF and PSC product families – covering push pull tools, magnetic tools, and no-touch handling aids for industrial applications.

HSF

HSF LoadGrab Push/Pull Tool

V-style head with hook profiles for pushing, pulling, guiding, and positioning loads. Suitable for a wide range of load profiles including tubulars, structural sections, and panels.

[View Datasheet](#)

[Request Quote](#)

HSF

HSF RiggerSafe Push/Pull Safety Tool

Non-conductive fiberglass shaft rated to 35kV per inch, with ergonomic D-grip handle and wide-face rubber push head. Available in 9 sizes from 21" to 96". Designed for suspended load guidance, pipe alignment, and no-touch load control across all industrial environments.

[View Product](#)

[Request Quote](#)

HSF

HSF SlingSafe Extendable Push/Pull Tool

PSC

PSC TubularGuider™ Push/Pull Tool

Extendable push/pull tool for hands-free load control with variable reach. Designed for sling and tagline retrieval, load guiding, and positioning tasks where a fixed-length tool cannot cover the required standoff distance.

Purpose-engineered for tubular, pipe, and cylindrical load handling. The TubularGuider™ head profile engages round sections securely, supporting hands-free guidance of drill pipe, casing, process piping, and structural tubes without hand contact.

PSC

PSC LoadGuider / Guide-it / Load-it

Premium engineered no-touch load control tools for heavy-duty industrial and lifting applications. Suitable for demanding environments including offshore, mining, steel, and energy sectors.

[View Datasheet](#)

[Request Quote](#)

HSF

Magnetic Load Control Tools

For ambient ferrous surfaces where magnetic engagement is suitable. Useful for cold steel component handling, CNC chip clearing, dropped object recovery, and component staging.

⚠ Ambient use only. Not suitable for hot surfaces, non-ferrous materials, or temperature-sensitive areas.

[View Datasheet](#)

[Request Quote](#)

Download the Hands-Free Load Control Product Guide

Datasheets, specifications, zone selection guidance, and application examples for the full Hand Safety First product range.

[Download Product Datasheets](#)

[Request Tool Selection Support](#)

Best Practices for Using Push Pull and Hands-Free Tools

Hands-free tools are most effective as part of a structured task approach. These best practices apply across all tool types and applications.

✓ **Inspect before use.** Check for damage, cracks, head security, handle condition, and any defects that could cause failure or transfer unexpected force to the operator.

✓ **Select correct length.** The tool should provide sufficient standoff to keep the operator's body outside the fall zone and hazard area for the specific load and task.

✓ **Keep body outside the fall zone.** Even with a push pull tool, the operator must not position themselves below or directly adjacent to a suspended load.

✓ **Maintain stable footing.** Use both hands on the tool where possible. Ensure stable ground and clear egress before applying force to a load.

✓ **Communicate with the crane or forklift operator.** Hand signals and verbal confirmation before and during load movement help prevent unexpected load shifts.

✓ **Use smooth, controlled movements.** Avoid sudden or jerky force application. Guide the load — do not attempt to stop or redirect a load that is moving under its own momentum.

✓ **Do not pry, lift, or overload.** Hands-free tools are guiding and positioning aids. They are not designed for prying, levering, or lifting. Never exceed the tool's intended application.

✓ **Do not use magnetic tools on hot or temperature-sensitive surfaces.** Heat reduces magnetic holding force. Magnetic tools must only be used on ambient ferrous materials.

✓ **Never use as a lifting device.** These tools are not rated for lifting, suspending, supporting, or stopping loads. Using them as a lifting device creates uncontrolled failure risk.

✓ **Include in JSA / HIRA / PTW / lift plan.** Specifying the hands-free method in pre-task documentation formalises it as an engineering control and supports EHS audit requirements.

Important Safety Note

Push pull tools and hands-free load control tools are intended to assist with guiding, pushing, pulling, retrieving, positioning, and controlling loads from a safer distance. They are not lifting devices and must not be used to lift, suspend, support, stop, or counteract uncontrolled crane

movement. Always use tools within site-approved procedures, lifting plans, and manufacturer guidance.

SECTION 14

Frequently Asked Questions

Common questions from EHS managers, safety officers, riggers, and procurement teams.

What is a push pull tool?



What is a hands-free load control tool?



What is the difference between a push pull tool and a tagline?



Can push pull tools be used on suspended loads?



Are push pull tools lifting devices?



What length push pull tool should I use?



Can magnetic tools be used on hot loads?



Which industries use hands-free load control tools?



How do these tools help reduce pinch point exposure?



Should these tools be included in JSA or lift plans?



Are gloves still required when using hands-free tools?



HAND SAFETY FIRST

Build a Hands-Off Task Protocol™ for Your Site

Hand injuries are rarely solved by PPE alone. The stronger approach is to identify where hands enter hazard zones, then redesign those tasks using distance tools, taglines, magnetic tools, hooks, lifting aids, or other no-touch handling methods. We can help you identify the right tools for your specific operations, zones, and load types.

[Request Tool Selection Support](#)

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handsafetyfirst.com info@handsafetyfirst.com [+91 73861 10618](tel:+917386110618)

Engineer the Hand out of Hazard™

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