

Hand Exposure Audit Checklist

A PSC Field Checklist for Identifying Where Hands Enter Hazards

Measure Exposure Before Injury Happens™ · Where Does the Hand Enter the Hazard?™ · Engineer the Hand Out of Hazard™

OPENING STATEMENT

Most hand injuries are preceded by repeated hand exposure. The injury may happen once, but the exposure usually happens many times before that. This checklist helps HSE and operations teams identify where hands enter hazards during normal work — before injury confirms the risk.

CORE DOCTRINE

Measure Exposure Before Injury Happens™ Proactive exposure assessment	Where Does the Hand Enter the Hazard?™ Task-level mapping	Zero injuries ≠ zero exposure. Exposure precedes injury	PPE is residual protection, not exposure elimination. Control hierarchy reminder
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QUICK AUDIT QUESTIONS – DURING ANY TASK OBSERVATION, ASK:

- Where does the worker's hand enter the hazard zone?
- Is the hand close to a pinch, crush, cut, burn, impact, caught-between, or line-of-fire hazard?
- What task function is the hand performing?
- Is the hand pushing, pulling, guiding, aligning, holding, lifting, retrieving, stabilising, connecting, disconnecting, or striking?
- Is the hand being used because no tool or fixture exists?
- Is the worker relying mainly on gloves or experience?
- Is the task repeated frequently?
- Has there been a near miss, first-aid case, or minor injury during this task?
- Can the hand function be moved away from the hazard zone?
- Does the task need a standard tool, modified tool, custom interface, fixture, or work-method change?

EXPOSURE TYPE REFERENCE

EXPOSURE TYPE	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	EXAMPLE TASKS
Pinch	Fingers near closing gap	Tray adjustment, fixture seating, coil landing
Crush	Hand between load and support	Crane load landing, mould box positioning
Cut	Hand on sharp edge	Sheet, plate, casting, profile, wire, strip
Burn	Hand near hot material	Billet, casting, die, pipe, hot tooling
Impact	Hand holding struck tool	Hammering, pin driving, chisel work
Caught-Between	Hand between converging surfaces	Sling/load, pipe/rack, fixture/component
Line of Fire	Worker in path of moving load	Suspended load, deck load, tubular, hose
Stored Energy	Hand near pressurised / tensioned item	Hoses, springs, hydraulic lines, stuck parts

TASK AREA CHECKLIST

STEEL / HEAVY FABRICATION

- Are workers guiding suspended plates, beams, coils, rolls, or sections by hand?
- Are hands entering sling, shackle, hook, or load landing pinch points?
- Are workers holding chisels, pins, or wedges during hammering?
- Are sharp edges being handled directly?

ALUMINIUM PLANTS

- Are billets, coils, profiles, dies, or castings handled by direct hand contact?
- Are hot materials being touched before temperature is confirmed?
- Are workers guiding loads during crane-assisted positioning?
- Are workers using hands near press, rolling, extrusion, or finishing-line equipment?
- Are non-ferrous aluminium loads being incorrectly considered for magnetic handling?

FOUNDRIES / CASTING SHOPS

- Are mould boxes or casting fixtures guided by hand during EOT crane movement?
- Are hands entering between mould box, frame, locating pins, lugs, or adjacent boxes?
- Are MS channels, plates, flat bars, or reinforcement sections handled directly?
- Are workers holding chisels, wedges, or pins during fettling and chipping?

MAINTENANCE / SHUTDOWN

- Are hands entering machinery, presses, conveyors, rolls, crushers, or enclosed equipment?
- Has LOTO / isolation been completed before intervention?
- Are pins, wedges, chisels, or components held by hand during hammering?
- Are parts being removed or reinstalled in confined or awkward positions?
- Is the task being rushed because of breakdown pressure?

CONTROL DIRECTION – IF THE HAND IS...

IF THE HAND IS...	CONSIDER...
Pushing / pulling a load	Push-pull tool, distance pole
Guiding suspended load	Tagline / load-control line, positioning pole
Final-aligning a component	Push/pull tool, fixture, magnetic tool where suitable
Holding a chisel / pin / wedge	Fingersaver, chisel holder, pin holder
Handling hose	Specialised hose handling tool
Handling pipe / tubular	Tubular handling or pipe positioning tool
Retrieving ferrous item	Magnetic lifter / tool where suitable
Handling sharp / hot material	Fixture, distance tool, handling aid
Reaching into machine	Redesign task · Isolate · Approved tool after LOTO

HIGH-PRIORITY RED FLAGS

Stop and Review if Any of These Are Present:

- Hands under suspended or partially supported loads
- Hands between load and landing point
- Hands inside moving or recently stopped machinery
- Hands at flange faces, pin holes, guide slots, locating pins, or mating surfaces
- Hands holding tools during hammering
- Hands near hose couplings or pressurised connections
- Gloves being treated as the main control for crush or line-of-fire exposure
- Workers saying "we have always done it this way"

WORK WITH PSC HAND SAFETY

Send Us Your Completed Checklist with Task Photos or Videos.

PSC Hand Safety can help identify whether the task needs:

- A standard no-touch tool
- A push/pull tool
- A magnetic tool where suitable
- A hose or tubular handling tool
- A fingersaver / chisel / pin holder
- A modified or custom tool
- A fixture or mechanical guide
- A change in work method

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