No-Touch Load Control Guide

A Practical PSC Field Summary for Suspended Loads, Final Positioning and Manual Load Control

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

OPENING STATEMENT

Most hand injuries during load handling occur during the final part of the task — when workers steady, guide, align, land, or correct the load by hand. No-touch load control aims to move that hand-contact function away from the hazard zone.

The objective is not only to "hold the load." The objective is to control the load without placing hands between the load and the landing point, between the load and a fixed structure, under a suspended load, or inside the line of fire.

CORE DOCTRINE

Engineer the Hand Out of Hazard™
Primary PSC doctrine

Where Does the Hand Enter the Hazard?™
Task-level hazard mapping

Control the load without entering the crush zone.
No-touch positioning principle

Taglines control swing. Push/pull tools control final positioning.
Right tool for the right phase

PPE is residual protection, not the primary control for crush or line-of-fire exposure.
PPE hierarchy reminder

THE LOAD CONTROL SEQUENCE — TYPICAL HAND EXPOSURE BY PHASE

PHASE	TYPICAL HAND EXPOSURE	CONTROL DIRECTION
Lift	Hands near slings, shackles, hooks	Rigging aids, sling control, keep hands clear
Move	Worker controls swinging load by hand	Taglines / load-control lines, exclusion zone
Approach	Worker stands near landing point	Defined landing zone, spotter, load-control line
Position	Worker pushes / pulls load by hand	Push/pull tool, load positioning pole, magnetic tool where suitable
Land / Seat	Hands between load and support	No-touch final positioning — hands clear before descent
Release / De-rig	Hands near pinch points in rigging	Load stable, blocked / chocked, de-rigging aid

DISTINGUISHING THE CONTROL TOOLS

CONTROL METHOD	BEST USED FOR	NOT FOR
Taglines / load-control lines	Swing control, directional control during travel	Final hand-close positioning inside crush zone
Push/pull tools	Pushing, pulling, guiding, aligning, final positioning	Controlling severe uncontrolled swing
Load positioning poles	Guiding suspended / heavy loads from safer distance	Lifting the load
Magnetic tools	Engaging suitable ferrous loads from a distance	Aluminium / non-ferrous or unsuitable surfaces
Hooks / distance tools	Pulling, retrieving, dragging, repositioning	Lifting unless designed and rated
Fixtures / mechanical guides	Repeat positioning, seating, alignment	Temporary improvisation without review
PPE	Residual protection: cuts, impact, abrasion	Primary control for crush or line-of-fire hazards

Tool Selection, Safety Notes & Common Applications

NO-TOUCH LOAD CONTROL · PSC HAND SAFETY FIELD SUMMARY

BEFORE SELECTING A NO-TOUCH LOAD CONTROL TOOL, ASK:

- ☐ What is the load? Is it suspended, rolling, sliding, hot, sharp, unstable, or pressurised?
- ☐ Where does the hand currently enter the hazard?
- ☐ Is the hand controlling swing, final positioning, alignment, landing, or de-rigging?
- ☐ Is the load ferrous or non-ferrous?
- ☐ Is the surface clean, coated, oily, rusted, hot, curved, or rough?
- ☐ Is the required action push, pull, guide, stabilise, rotate, retrieve, hold, or align?
- ☐ What stand-off distance is required?
- ☐ Can a standard tool work, or is a modified / custom interface needed?
- ☐ What site controls are still required before the tool is used?

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTES

- No-touch tools do not replace lifting plans, rigging procedures, crane operator control, exclusion zones, or competent supervision.
- Workers must not stand under suspended loads or inside the line of fire.
- Severe swing, wind, vessel motion, poor rigging geometry, or uncontrolled load movement cannot be solved by simply adding a tagline.
- Taglines should be used only where they do not pull workers into the line of fire.
- Magnetic tools are suitable only for ferrous surfaces and only where surface condition, temperature, coating, rust, oil, contact area, geometry, and direction of force permit.
- Magnetic pull force is not the same as guaranteed lifting capacity.
- For critical lifts, overhead lifts, lifting over people, or any task where loss of control can cause injury or damage, use site-approved lifting procedures and rated equipment.
- For machinery, conveyors, presses, and rotating equipment, intervention must happen only after isolation / LOTO and site procedure confirmation.

COMMON APPLICATIONS

Suspended mould boxes & casting fixtures

Steel plates, channels, sections & fabrications

Offshore baskets, skids & deck loads

Billets, coils, trays, racks & heavy components

Gearboxes, shafts, bearings & assembly fixtures

Crane-assisted maintenance positioning

Foundry · Steel · Aluminium · Oil & Gas

Offshore · Marine · Ports · Mining · Logistics

WORK WITH PSC HAND SAFETY

Send Us Your Load Handling Task Photos or Videos.

PSC Hand Safety can help identify whether the task needs:

- A tagline / load-control line
- A push/pull tool
- A load positioning pole
- A magnetic tool
- A hook or distance tool
- A fixture or mechanical guide
- A modified or custom interface
- A change in lifting method or procedure

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