

PSC HAND SAFETY INDIA PVT. LTD.

The hand has no
rated working load.

THE HUMAN HAND IS NOT A TOOL™

FIND THE HAND™ · THE LAST 300 MM RULE™ · ENGINEER THE HAND OUT OF THE HAZARD™

A steel frame hangs from the crane, turning slowly on its chains.

A rigger reaches out and steadies it with a gloved palm.

Across the bay, a fitter holds a chisel in place while someone else swings the hammer.

Beneath a descending component, a technician slides two fingers into the gap to nudge it the last few millimetres.

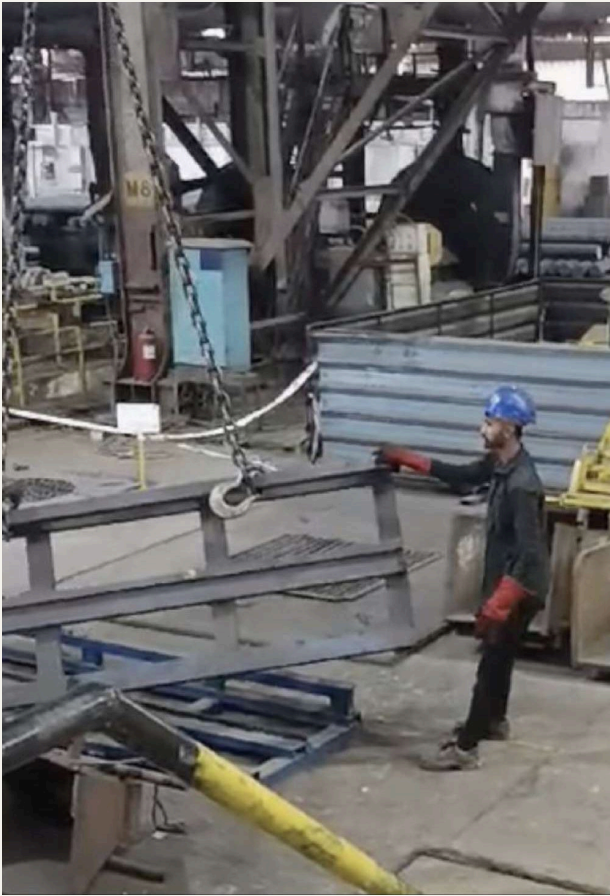
Nobody stops. Nothing goes wrong. The work gets done.

Look closely at almost any industrial workplace and you will see hands being used as part of the process — not merely to operate tools, but as the tool itself.

THE JOBS WE GIVE OUR HANDS

Six roles the hand quietly takes over

None of these tasks is unusual. That is exactly the point. They are performed thousands of times a day, in steel plants, fabrication shops, rigs, ports and assembly lines — usually competently, usually without incident.



1 The hand as a guide

A suspended load needs steering into its final position, so a hand goes onto its face. The same hand that directs the load is now close to where the moving mass will meet something fixed.

The chain and hook make it a live suspended load. The hand is directly influencing where it lands.



2 The hand as a clamp

A component must be held still while it is struck, aligned or fastened. The hand becomes the fixture — and sits in the same small space as the action.

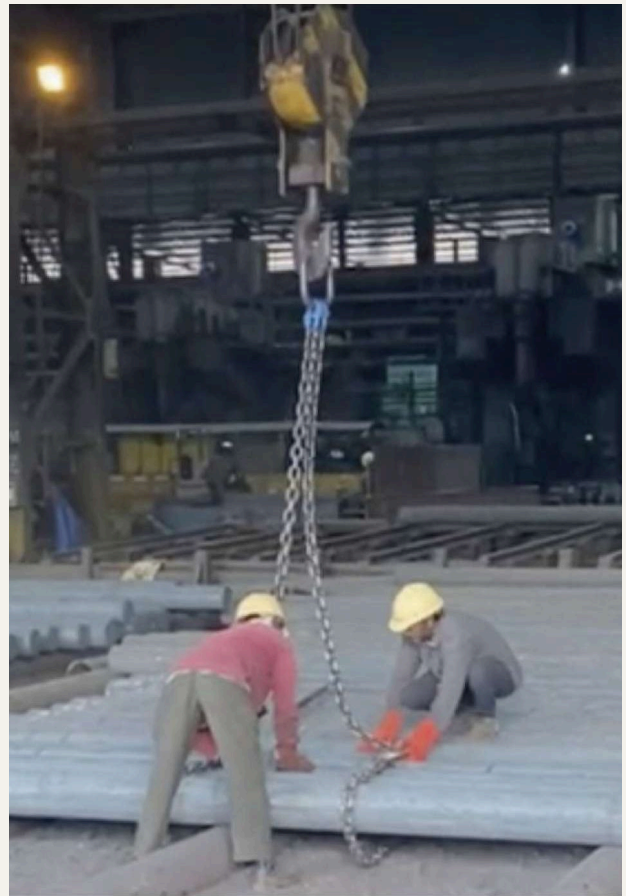
Holding and striking, in the same place, at the same time. One person's hands depend on another person's aim.



3 The hand as a positioning tool

Machines move loads metres. Hands are often brought in for the last few centimetres — to seat a hook, square a part, or line up a hole.

The hand is between the hook and the ingot. The lifting system is live.



4 The hand as a connector and retriever

Chains, slings and taglines have to be worked into place and pulled back out. The hands go to the level of the material, among the load and the rigging.

The chain and the material occupy the same space as the hands. Either could move first.



5 The hand as a striking aid

One hand steadies a chisel, punch or wedge.
The other swings the hammer toward it.

The gap between where the hammer is aimed and where the hand is gripping is the entire margin.



6 The hand as a lifting interface

When a load has no engineered grip point,
the hands become the grip — on the edge,
underneath, around a round bar that can
rotate or slip.

It looks like ordinary handling. That is why the position of the hands is so easy to stop noticing.

The hand is extraordinary. That is the problem.

The human hand senses, adapts and corrects in ways no fixed device can. It feels a load begin to rotate. It makes a fine adjustment without being asked. So whenever a task needs a final nudge, a steadying touch or a quick hold, the hand is the nearest, fastest and most capable thing available.

But the hand has no rated working load. It has no engineered stand-off distance. And when a load swings, a component settles, stored energy releases or a striking tool deflects, the hand may already be inside the consequence zone.

A well-chosen glove may reduce the consequence of an exposure. It does not remove the hand from a pinch point, a crush zone or the path of a moving load.

So when a task depends on a hand being in the danger zone, the question should not only be *how do we protect the hand?*

It should be: why does the hand need to be there?

The hand has no rated working load.

It was never designed to guide, steady, position or align industrial loads.

Yet across industry, that is still one of the jobs we give it.

THE HUMAN HAND IS NOT A TOOL™

Before assessing the exposure, find the hand.

Before deciding what to buy, change or redesign, you have to see the exposure. Find The Hand™ is a deliberately simple way of doing that — three questions anyone on site can ask, from the operator to the head of safety:

Where is the hand?

What is it doing?

Could something happen that could injure it?

If yes, you've found a hand exposure.

No forms. No probability scores. No incident or near miss required. The hand may be exactly where the task currently needs it to be — which is why the next question matters: **what job is the hand doing that the process has not provided another way to do?**

Nothing happening today does not mean the exposure wasn't there. It means the exposure did not become an incident.

Look hardest at the final approach.

The major movement may be over, but the task is not. As a load or component closes on its final position, clearances shrink, visibility drops and the urge to use fingers for fine control rises. That is where the hand most often appears — for alignment, seating, connection, steadying or retrieval.

The Last 300 mm Rule™ is not a separate method. It tells you where to look first when you Find The Hand™.



As the component descends, the hand guides alignment. Clearances are smallest precisely where precision demands it.

Remove the need for the hand to do the tool's job.

Once the exposure is visible, the response depends on the task, the load and the environment. There is no single answer:

Sometimes the task can be changed — a different sequence, a landing guide, a fixed stop or a fixture that does the holding.

Sometimes the answer is mechanisation or a more substantial engineering change.

Sometimes the answer is distance — a purpose-designed push/pull tool, tagline, magnetic handling tool, lifting aid or striking-tool holder that performs the function while the person stays out of the zone.



The load still needs guidance. The hand no longer needs to touch it.

PPE still has a role, as the last layer for the risk that remains — not as a substitute for removing the exposure.

The objective is not to sell a particular tool. It is to remove the need for the hand to be the tool.

THE FRAMEWORK

The Human Hand Is Not a Tool™

The principle

Find The Hand™

Identify where the hand enters the task, and why

The Last 300 mm Rule™

Look hardest at the final approach, where clearances close

Engineer the Hand Out of the Hazard™

Change the method, add distance, or remove the contact

IN YOUR OWN WORKPLACE

One photograph. One question.

Take a photograph of one routine task on your site. Don't look at the machine first. Don't look at the PPE first.

Find the hand.

Ask what job it is performing. Then ask the question that starts every hands-free solution: **could something else do that job while the person stays farther away?**

To go further, run Find The Hand™ with your team for one week. During normal work, look for the hands and photograph any exposure you find. At the end of the week, spend fifteen minutes together on one question: what did we find?

BUILT FROM THE FIELD

Find The Hand™ grew from PSC's years of reviewing industrial applications, photographs, videos and hand-exposure challenges sent in from heavy industry. The methodology is deliberately simple: make the exposure visible before deciding how to control it.

Found a hand exposure?

Send a photograph or short video of the task. We will review where the hand enters, what job it is doing, and whether the work can change.

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