

PSC HAND SAFETY INDIA PVT. LTD.

Find The Hand™

*A Global Methodology for Identifying
Industrial Hand Exposure
Before It Becomes an Injury*

PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd.
17 years · 40+ countries

Look at the worker on this page.

*Before reading further —
can you find the hand?*

THE MOMENT BEFORE

A large component is moving slowly into position. The crane operator is experienced. The rigger has done this a thousand times. The lift looks controlled, the component almost aligned.

There is perhaps a metre to go. Then half a metre. Then the component begins a slow, unwanted rotation — just a few degrees — and a hand reaches forward.

The hand does not reach forward carelessly or recklessly. It reaches forward because the worker recognises an immediate operational need — to control the rotation — and no safer means of performing that function appears to be available.

*An injury is an outcome.
Hand exposure exists
before the outcome.*

The worker may be trained, competent and wearing the correct gloves for the task. Yet the exposure already exists — because the hand has entered the process, and the process has not stopped moving.

Safety programmes are designed to prevent injuries. Find The Hand™ asks a different question: *where is the hand right now, before anything goes wrong?*

Find the hand before the incident finds it.



EXPOSURE REVEALED

The worker's gloved hand is in direct contact with a large suspended component under chain slings. The hand is performing a guiding function — controlling rotation — with no other means of separation available.

WHAT INDUSTRIAL HAND SAFETY USUALLY LOOKS LIKE

Ask a safety leader in a major industrial organisation what their hand-safety programme includes, and the answer will typically cover some combination of the following:

Gloves. PPE specifications and compliance rates. Posters and visual reminders near work areas. Toolbox talks before shifts begin.

Behavioural programmes asking workers to think before reaching. General risk assessments covering the task in broad terms. Incident reports after a hand injury occurs. Lessons-learned communications following a significant event.

These measures are not without value. Toolbox talks raise awareness. PPE specifications bring consistency. Incident investigations can surface patterns. But individually or collectively, these measures do not necessarily provide a defined, repeatable method for finding every point at which hands enter hazardous industrial processes during normal work.

The gap is not in intention. It is in methodology.

Hand protection and hand-exposure reduction are not the same thing.

A well-specified glove provides meaningful protection against cuts, abrasions, temperature extremes and chemical contact where those are the residual risks. But a glove does not remove a hand from a pinch point. It does not extract fingers from a crush zone, a suspended load, a rotating component or a closing mechanical interface. A glove may reduce the consequence of an exposure. It cannot eliminate the exposure itself.

Beyond gloves, what is your organisation's defined methodology for identifying where hands are exposed during normal industrial work?

Does your organisation proactively identify hand exposure during operations, or does hand safety become most visible only after an incident has occurred?



Gloves provide protection against residual risks. They do not remove the hand from a pinch point, a crush zone or the path of unexpected movement.

These are not rhetorical questions. They are the gap that Find The Hand™ was developed to address.

WHY PSC DEVELOPED FIND THE HAND™

Find The Hand™ is an industrial hand-exposure identification methodology developed by PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd., founded on 17 years of specialist hand-safety engineering and application experience across more than 40 countries.

PSC developed the methodology because the actions that create hand exposure are often surprisingly basic — and surprisingly consistent across industries, countries and types of work.

Holding. Guiding. Steadying. Aligning. Positioning. Pushing. Pulling. Catching. Rotating. Separating. Retrieving. Clearing. Testing stability. Making a final adjustment.

These are fundamental ways in which hands interact with loads, components, tools and machinery during everyday industrial work. They occur across a range of sectors and environments — frequently in tasks that have never been examined in a risk assessment as hand-exposure events, because they appear routine, because they have always been done this way, or because the worker is competent and the task looks controlled.

PSC developed Find The Hand™ to simplify the identification of hand exposure — without oversimplifying the engineering, the hierarchy of controls, or the judgement required to select the right response.

A NOTE ON ADOPTION

Companies, safety professionals, trainers, operators and technicians are encouraged to adopt Find The Hand™ within their organisations, training programmes, workplace assessments and toolbox talks — provided the methodology is clearly attributed to its origin.

Standard attribution:

Find The Hand™ — a hand-exposure identification methodology developed by PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd.

Guidance for use and attribution appears at the end of this article. PSC wants the language to spread, because broader recognition of hand exposure is good for industrial work. We ask only that the origin remains acknowledged.

The objective is not to make safety simplistic. It is to make the first step simple enough for everyone to use.

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES. THE SAME HUMAN HAND.

Every day, organisations from around the world send PSC photographs, videos and descriptions of industrial tasks in which hands remain exposed to hazards they cannot yet adequately address. From Chile and Peru to Brunei, Australia, Japan, the Middle East and across Africa — the equipment changes, the terminology changes, the working conditions change. But the hand often performs the same function.

A hand steadying a suspended load in one country is performing the same action — and facing a comparable exposure — as a hand steadying a suspended load elsewhere. The load may differ. The procedure language may differ. The PPE worn may differ. But if a human hand is between a moving mass and its resting position, the fundamental exposure is recognisable.

"Find the hand" requires almost no technical translation.

WHERE EXPOSURE ACTUALLY LIVES

Hand exposure does not begin in a safety report. It begins on the workshop floor, beside a machine, beneath a suspended component, during a maintenance task or in the final few millimetres of alignment.

It lives in the small, familiar actions that rarely appear in a formal procedure: holding something steady while a colleague completes a task; steadying a load during its final movement because the crane operator cannot see the landing point; guiding the last few millimetres of alignment; placing fingers beneath a structural member to prevent it landing on an unintended surface; catching something that begins to shift unexpectedly; keeping two surfaces separated while a fastener is engaged; reaching in to make a minor adjustment that was not anticipated before the task began.

*The hand is often not the cause of the problem.
It is compensating for something the process
has not provided.*

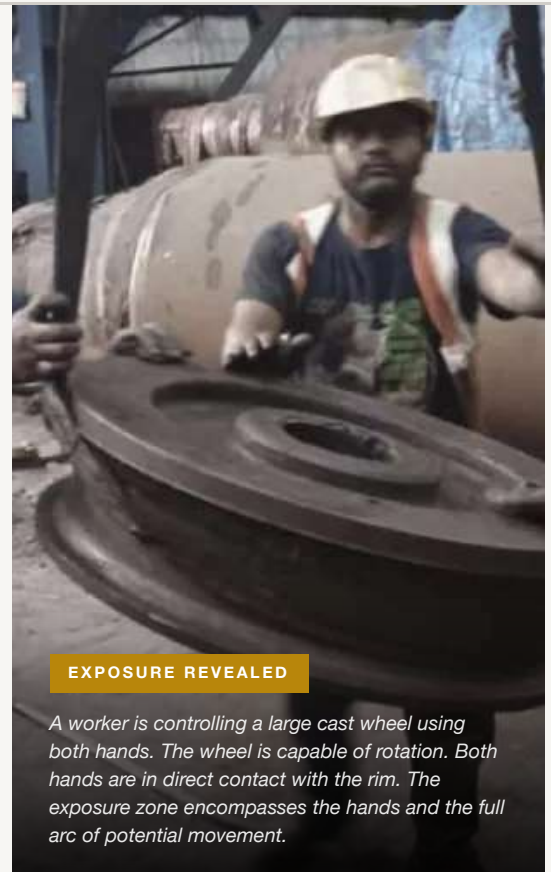
Find The Hand™ does not begin by asking what the worker did wrong. It begins by asking what the process required the worker's hand to do — and whether there is a better way to provide that function.

Where is the hand?

Why does it need to be there?

What could move, shift, close, fall, rotate or release?

Classification and technical analysis can follow. Recognition must come first.



EXPOSURE REVEALED

A worker is controlling a large cast wheel using both hands. The wheel is capable of rotation. Both hands are in direct contact with the rim. The exposure zone encompasses the hands and the full arc of potential movement.

Operators controlling unwanted rotation during positioning. Where is each hand? What could move? In what direction and at what speed?

1

OBSERVE



2

FIND



3

UNDERSTAND



4

IDENTIFY



5

CHALLENGE



6

CONTROL



7

RECORD

The Find The Hand™ Methodology

A seven-step process designed to be used by a safety professional, an operations manager, or an operator identifying an exposure during the task itself. The language is the same at every level.

STEP 1

Observe the Work

Study how the task is actually performed — not merely how it is described in a procedure. Procedures often capture the intended sequence. They rarely capture every hand interaction that occurs in practice, particularly during final positioning, alignment and landing.

Observation may include a live workplace review, operational photographs, short videos of the task being performed, discussions with operators who perform it regularly, task demonstrations, and review of previous incidents or near misses involving similar work.

The goal is not to judge. It is to see the work as it actually happens.

STEP 2

Find the Hand



Where is the hand? What is it doing? What could move? Step 2 asks these questions before any assessment begins.

Identify every moment when a hand approaches, touches or controls a load, component, tool, material or machine. Look specifically for hands used to: hold, guide, steady, align, position, push, pull, catch, rotate, separate, retrieve, clear, test or control. Look for the moments a hand moves *closer* to a load or pinch zone — not only when contact is made. The exposure begins before the contact.

STEP 3

Understand Why It Is There

Do not immediately attribute the hand's presence to worker behaviour or inattention. Ask what operational need the hand is fulfilling.

Is it controlling unwanted movement? Compensating for restricted visibility? Correcting a misalignment? Preventing an object from rotating? Supporting an unstable item?

Making up for the absence of a fixture or guide?

Responding instinctively to movement that was not anticipated?

The answer reveals what the process has not provided. That is where the solution begins.

STEP 4

Identify the Exposure

Determine what could move, fall, shift, rotate, close, recoil, release, trap, cut, strike, pull in or transfer stored energy — and from what direction, with what force and in what timeframe.

Classify the relevant exposure:

Pinch point · Crush zone · Cut
or shear · Impact ·
Entanglement

Caught-between · Line-of-fire
· Stored energy · Ergonomic
injury

A classified exposure can be communicated, compared, shared and managed. An unclassified exposure remains invisible.

STEP 5

Challenge the Contact

Ask rigorously whether the hand genuinely needs to be there. Can the manual interaction be eliminated by changing the task sequence? Can it be performed differently? Can a fixture, guide or jig provide the function? Can it be mechanised or automated? Can the interaction be performed from a greater distance? Does the task need redesign at a more fundamental level?

The answer determines what category of control is appropriate — and how urgently.

STEP 6

Select and Verify the Control

Select the most suitable control for the actual task, load, movement and environment. Confirm that it removes or meaningfully reduces the hand exposure — not merely that it appears to make the task safer.

A control should not merely look safer. It must change the relationship between the hand and the hazard.

Confirm that the control is practical in real working conditions, does not introduce another hazard, is appropriate for the load and environment, and continues to function during normal operations rather than only during supervised demonstrations. Trial it. Observe it. Verify it.

STEP 7

Record and Share the Learning



Document the activity, the hand interaction, the exposure, the control selected, the trial outcome and any similar applications identified elsewhere. One plant's solution may apply directly at a facility in a different country.

THE PSC HAND SAFETY DOCTRINE

Three principles work together to provide a complete framework.

The Human Hand Is Not a Tool™

When the process is relying on a biological structure to perform a mechanical function, the hand is at risk if movement continues or conditions change. The hand should not routinely function as a hook, guide, clamp, wedge, alignment aid or load-control device.

Find The Hand™

Identify where the human hand has entered the industrial process and what function it is performing. This makes The Human Hand Is Not a Tool™ actionable at the task level.

Last 300 mm Rule™

Give particular attention to the final stage of positioning and alignment. As clearances reduce, visibility may be restricted and the tendency to use fingers for fine control increases. When reviewing a task for hand exposure, the closing phase is a consistent and important place to look.

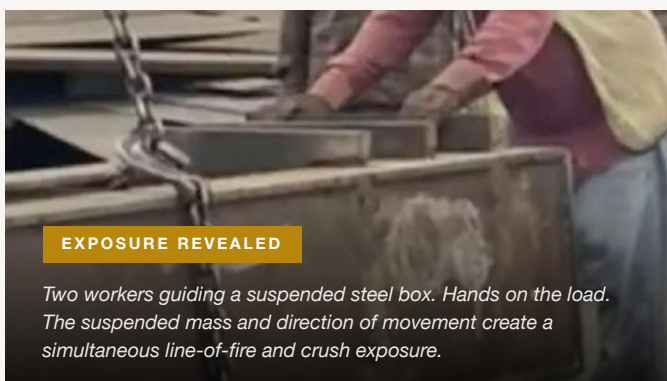


Cylindrical and tubular components represent a recurring hand-exposure category across steel, energy and mining operations.

THE HAND EXPOSURE HIERARCHY™

A structured order for thinking about how an exposure should be controlled — from the most fundamental intervention to the last line of defence.

- 1 **Eliminate** the manual interaction where reasonably practicable. If the hand's presence in the exposure zone can be removed entirely by redesigning the task sequence or configuration, that is the highest-order control.
- 2 **Mechanise or automate** where appropriate. A consistent, repetitive interaction performed by a mechanical or automated system will generally provide more consistent separation.
- 3 **Redesign** the process, load, fixture or workplace. A guide rail, landing saddle, fixed stop or modified component profile may remove an exposure permanently.
- 4 **Introduce engineered separation, restraint or guarding** where the load, machine or energy source cannot be modified.
- 5 **Apply procedures, training and supervision** to ensure controls are followed consistently and the exposure is understood by everyone performing or supervising the task.
- 6 **Use appropriate PPE** for remaining residual risks. Gloves and cut-resistant sleeves serve an important role as the final layer of defence — not a substitute for exposure reduction.



EXPOSURE REVEALED

Two workers guiding a suspended steel box. Hands on the load. The suspended mass and direction of movement create a simultaneous line-of-fire and crush exposure.

THE PSC CONTROL-SELECTION PATHWAY

The hierarchy describes the order in which controls should be considered. The PSC control-selection pathway addresses a practical reality: some higher-order controls require significant time, investment and engineering resource to implement. In the interim, the exposure continues.

Before committing to a lengthy customised engineering project, ask: has PSC already studied this exposure and developed an existing solution that can provide effective hand separation?

PSC has developed a broad portfolio of purpose-designed hand-separation solutions covering:

Suspended-load guidance and positioning · Push-and-pull operations · Magnetic control of suitable ferrous loads · Tubular and cylindrical-component handling · Tagline and load-rotation control · Striking and impact operations · Pinch-point and finger-exposure reduction

PSC is not limited to supplying a particular tool. We begin with the exposure.

PSC does not claim that a handheld solution can substitute for necessary automation, guarding or engineered controls. A product should never be selected merely because it resembles the activity. Some applications will require mechanisation or a more substantial engineering response.

This is not a shortcut around the hierarchy. It is a practical control-selection step. For some applications, an existing PSC solution may provide the appropriate ongoing control; for others, it may support immediate risk reduction while more substantial engineering is developed.

FROM EXPOSURE TO SEPARATION

Find The Hand™ makes the exposure visible. The next question is whether the required task function can be maintained while direct hand contact is removed. The following applications show PSC solutions in actual industrial operation — not product demonstrations.



The load still requires guidance, but the hand no longer needs to touch it. An appropriately selected PSC load-control tool allows the operator to influence movement while maintaining separation from the suspended component.



The load still requires guidance, but the human hand no longer performs that function directly. An appropriately selected PSC push/pull tool creates separation between the worker and the suspended tubular bundle.



Different PSC tool heads engage different load geometries — shafts, rolls, tubulars and fabricated components. Suitability is determined by the actual load, movement pattern and working environment, not by visual similarity to the task.

Customers do not need to know the name of a product before approaching PSC. Show PSC the work. PSC will study the application and advise on whether an existing solution is suitable, whether the work method should change, or whether the application requires more substantial engineering.

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION HAVE A DEFINED HAND-EXPOSURE METHODOLOGY?

This question is directed at safety leaders, heads of HSE, operations directors, engineering managers and anyone responsible for how hand safety is managed across multiple sites or business units.

Can your organisation identify the tasks in which hands are routinely being used as substitutes for mechanical functions?

Do you study work during normal operations, or does hand safety receive its most detailed attention after an incident?

Are hand exposures classified consistently across every plant and country in which you operate?

Do your audits specifically examine holding, guiding, alignment and load-positioning activities?

Do operators have a simple, shared language for identifying and reporting these exposures?

Can exposure data from one plant be meaningfully compared with another?

Can a successful control developed at one facility be replicated at another in a different country?

Do you distinguish clearly between hand protection and hand-exposure reduction?

Do you verify that a selected control actually removes the hand from the danger zone?

Is hand safety jointly owned by operations, maintenance and engineering — not only by HSE?

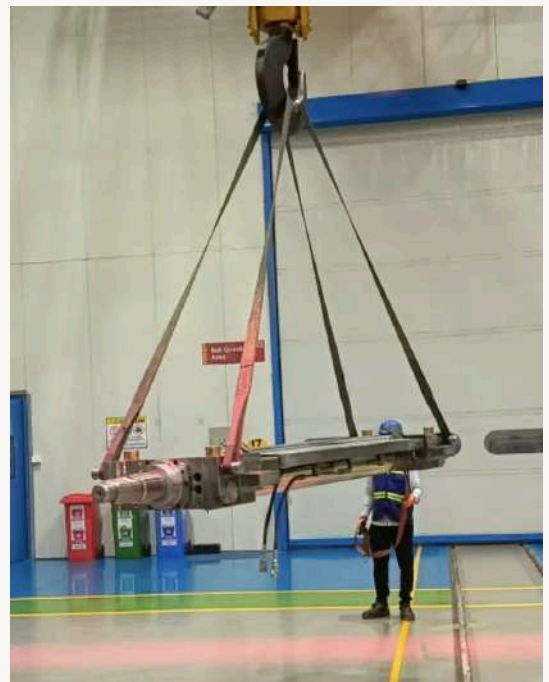
Beyond gloves, what is the next layer of defence?

Does every site give the same consistent answer to these questions?

If these questions do not have clear and consistent answers across your operations, Find The Hand™ provides a practical place to begin.



Routine material handling during fabrication regularly places hands in contact with heavy, sharp-edged sections. Find The Hand™ asks whether the handling method can be changed.



Industrial organisations worldwide send PSC applications of this kind for review — loads of this scale, managed by workers with limited or no mechanical separation from the suspended mass.

GLOBAL ADOPTION ACROSS OPERATIONS

Find The Hand™ was designed to be adopted across multinational organisations — across plants, countries, business units, production departments, maintenance teams, warehouses, project sites, contractors, engineering groups, safety functions and training programmes. It provides a common language across different organisational levels, from the operator performing a task to the global head of safety reviewing performance across a portfolio of operations.

A global organisation can begin simply. Ask each site to identify recurring activities involving direct hand interaction; capture photographs or short videos of those activities as actually performed; record why the hand is present and what function it is fulfilling; identify what could move, shift or release energy; classify the exposure; explore whether the interaction can be eliminated or the work method changed; determine whether an existing PSC solution can provide effective separation; escalate applications requiring mechanisation or customised engineering; record outcomes and share learning globally.

PSC is not asking global companies to begin by buying a product. We are asking them to begin by finding the hand.

HOW PSC CAN HELP

The easiest starting point is remote. Share selected photographs, operational videos or application descriptions with PSC — PSC will review the work, identify the hand interactions, classify the exposures and advise on the practical way forward.

- Identification of recurring hand interactions · Classification of pinch, crush, cut, impact, entanglement and related exposures ·
- Review of existing controls against the Hand Exposure Hierarchy™ · Mapping against available PSC solutions ·
- Selection of priority applications for controlled trials ·
- Recommendations for applications requiring further engineering · Development of a Find The Hand™ Exposure Register · Cross-site comparison of recurring applications ·
- Onsite assessment where a physical review is required

Operational information shared with PSC for assessment is treated as confidential and is not published or used in external communications without the organisation's permission.

Show PSC the work before asking for the product.

THE FIND THE HAND™ EXPOSURE REGISTER

A simple register — at plant, business-unit or global level — converts individual observations into managed exposures and transferable knowledge. One plant's solution may apply directly at a facility in a different country.

SITE / DEPT	TASK	WHAT THE HAND DOES	WHY REQUIRED	ENERGY SOURCE	EXPOSURE TYPE	EXISTING CONTROL	PSC SOLUTION	STATUS
Fabrication / Bay 3	Structural section landing	Guides section to rest	No landing guide fitted	Suspended load	Crush / pinch	Verbal instruction only	RiggerSafe — to evaluate	Trial pending
Maintenance / Unit 7	Gearbox housing positioning	Steadies rotation on descent	Component rotates on slings	Suspended mass / rotation	Entanglement / crush	Gloves only	Under review	Under assessment
Steel yard / Bay A	Billet separation and retrieval	Pulls individual billet from rack	No separation tool available	Adjacent billets / weight	Caught-between / crush	None identified	TubularGuider — to evaluate	Photograph sent to PSC

DEVELOPED FROM GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

17

years of specialised
hand-safety engineering

40+

countries supplied with
industrial hand-safety solutionsGlobal
reachsteel · mining · energy
manufacturing · logistics
construction · offshore

PERMISSION TO USE FIND THE HAND™

PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd. encourages companies, safety professionals, trainers, operators and technicians to use the Find The Hand™ term within hand-safety programmes, workplace assessments, training sessions, toolbox talks and internal safety communications, provided the methodology is clearly attributed to PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd.

Standard attribution:

Find The Hand™ — a hand-exposure identification methodology developed by PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd.

Retain the ™ symbol when using the name. · Do not represent the methodology as developed by another organisation. · Internal adoption does not imply PSC certification or formal endorsement. · PSC's name, logo or methodology should not be materially altered or used commercially by others without written permission. · Organisations are encouraged to teach and use the methodology while preserving the attribution.

PSC wants the language to spread because broader recognition of hand exposure is good for industrial work. We ask only that the origin of the methodology remains acknowledged.

FIND THE HAND. UNDERSTAND WHY.
EXPLORE THE SOLUTION. CHANGE THE WORK.

Global organisations do not need to wait for another incident, commission a major engineering project or understand every available solution before beginning.

They can begin with one operation. One photograph. One question.

Where is the hand?

Adopt Find The Hand™ across your operations.

Build a Find The Hand™ Exposure Register.

Share photographs and videos with PSC.

Explore whether an existing solution can help.

Escalate applications requiring further engineering.

Find The Hand™ was developed by PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd. from 17 years of specialist hand-safety engineering and experience addressing industrial applications across more than 40 countries. It gives everyone — from an operator on the shop floor to a global head of safety — a shared language for recognising where the human hand has become part of an industrial process.

Find The Hand™

A hand-exposure identification methodology developed by PSC Hand Safety India Pvt. Ltd.

Organisations may share selected photographs, operational videos or application descriptions with PSC for an initial Find The Hand™ review.

Find the hand. Understand why it is there. Explore the solution. Change the work.