

Push/Pull Tool Selection Guide

A PSC Field Summary for Matching Distance Tools to Industrial Tasks

Engineer the Hand Out of Hazard™ · Where Does the Hand Enter the Hazard?™ · Match the Tool to the Task Function.

OPENING STATEMENT

Push/pull tools are not "sticks." They are distance tools that allow workers to perform a task function — push, pull, guide, align, stabilise, retrieve, or reposition — without placing hands into pinch, crush, caught-between, cut, burn, or line-of-fire zones.

The correct tool is not always the longest or strongest tool. The correct tool is the one that matches the task interface, load type, access angle, required force, and hand exposure point.

CORE DOCTRINE

Engineer the Hand Out of Hazard™ Primary PSC doctrine	Where Does the Hand Enter the Hazard?™ Task-level mapping	Match the tool to the task function. Selection principle	Distance is only useful when the tool can control the task. Control, not just reach
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TOOL SELECTION STARTS WITH THE TASK

Before selecting a push/pull tool, ask:

- What is the worker's hand currently doing?
- Is the hand pushing, pulling, guiding, aligning, stabilising, retrieving, holding, lifting, separating, connecting, disconnecting, or correcting movement?
- Is the load suspended, sliding, rolling, hot, sharp, unstable, ferrous, non-ferrous, oily, coated, or awkward?
- Does the task need a standard tool, modified head, magnetic interface, hook interface, or custom tool?

- What hazard is the hand exposed to?
- What is the load type — plate, mould box, coil, tray, rack, skid, hose, tubular, casting, component, basket, or fixture?
- What contact point can a tool safely engage?

TASK FUNCTION → TOOL DIRECTION

TASK FUNCTION	COMMON EXPOSURE	POSSIBLE TOOL DIRECTION
Push	Hand between load and support	Push/pull pole, flat/padded head, V-head
Pull	Hand near edge or pinch point	Hook tool, pull head, distance handle
Guide	Hand on moving/suspended load	Load positioning pole, push/pull tool
Stabilise	Hand steadying load or component	Push/pull tool, magnetic tool where suitable
Final align	Fingers at locating point	Positioning pole, custom head, fixture
Retrieve	Hand reaching into hazard zone	Hook, magnetic lifter where suitable
Separate	Hand between two components	Wedge-style tool, distance tool, fixture
Rotate / turn	Hand on pipe, roll, shaft, cylinder	Tubular tool, roller interface, custom head
Hold during striking	Hand holding chisel, pin, wedge	Fingersaver, chisel holder, pin holder
Handle hose	Hand near coupling / stored energy	Specialised hose handling tool

TOOL CATEGORY REFERENCE

TOOL CATEGORY	BEST USED FOR	NOT BEST FOR
Straight push/pull poles	General pushing, pulling, guiding	Complex geometry or very high-force tasks
V-head / cradle head	Round loads, pipe, tubulars, cylinders	Flat plates or sharp irregular surfaces
Hook tools	Pulling, retrieving, dragging, repositioning	Lifting unless designed and rated
Magnetic tools	Ferrous loads where surface permits	Aluminium, non-ferrous, hot or unsuitable surfaces
Load positioning poles	Crane-assisted final positioning	Lifting or controlling uncontrolled swing
Hose handling tools	Hose connection / disconnection zones	Generic load positioning
Tubular handling tools	Pipe, casing, tubing, risers	Flat plate handling
Fingersavers / chisel holders	Hammering and struck-tool tasks	Pushing / pulling loads
Custom task interfaces	Unusual geometry or repeated high-risk tasks	Improvised one-time use without review

Load & Handle Selection, Safety Notes & Applications

PUSH/PULL TOOL SELECTION GUIDE · PSC HAND SAFETY FIELD SUMMARY

BEFORE CHOOSING THE TOOL HEAD, CHECK:

- Is the load flat, round, curved, irregular, sharp, hot, oily, coated, or rough?
- Is the contact surface suitable for pushing or pulling?
- Is the surface ferrous, non-ferrous, painted, rusty, oily, dusty, hot, or contaminated?
- Can the tool slip, rotate, bounce, or disengage during force application?
- Is the required force low, moderate, high, or unpredictable?
- Does the worker need one-hand or two-hand control?
- Is the task at floor level, waist level, overhead, inside a machine, or in a confined space?
- Is the required tool length short, medium, long, or extendable?
- Is a fixed head enough, or is a 90°, 180°, swivel, flexible, or custom head needed?
- Is there a risk of the tool pulling the worker into the hazard zone?

LENGTH & HANDLE SELECTION

SELECTION FACTOR	GUIDANCE
Short reach	Close-control tasks where worker is already outside hazard zone
Long reach	Suspended loads, crane bays, mould boxes, deck loads, wide equipment
Extendable reach	Variable task distance, maintenance, plant walkthrough tools
D-handle	Stronger grip and directional control
T-handle	Two-hand control, pushing / pulling force
Fibreglass / insulated shaft	Distance, lower weight, electrical/plant considerations where applicable
Flexible / swivel head	Awkward approach angles and final alignment tasks
Replaceable heads	Plants with multiple task types

COMMON APPLICATIONS

Suspended mould boxes & casting fixtures

Steel plates, sections, channels & frames

Coil, billet, tray & rack adjustment after isolation

Offshore deck loads & skid positioning

Pipe, tubular & riser positioning

Gearbox, shaft & bearing alignment

Foundry reinforcement section handling

Hose handling with specialised hose tools

Hammering & pin-driving with fingersavers

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTES

- › Push/pull tools are for controlling task function from a safer distance. They do not make an unsafe lift safe.
- › Tools do not replace LOTO, guarding, lift plans, rigging procedures, exclusion zones, or competent supervision.
- › Workers must not use a tool to stand in the line of fire of a suspended or moving load.
- › Severe load swing cannot be solved by simply using a longer pole.
- › For running machinery, conveyors, press areas, rollers, coil cars, jammed trays, or rotating equipment, intervention must happen only after isolation / LOTO and site procedure confirmation.
- › Magnetic tools are suitable only for ferrous surfaces and only where material, surface condition, temperature, contact area, geometry, and direction of force permit.
- › Magnetic pull force is not the same as guaranteed lifting capacity.
- › Aluminium and other non-ferrous materials do not engage magnetic tools unless there is a ferrous fixture, frame, or attachment.
- › PPE remains residual protection after exposure has been reduced.

WORK WITH PSC HAND SAFETY

Send Us Your Task Photo or Video Before Selecting a Tool.

PSC Hand Safety can help identify:

- The hand exposure point
- The task function
- The correct tool category
- The required head geometry
- The required shaft length
- Whether magnetic engagement is suitable
- Whether a standard tool is enough
- Whether a modified / custom interface is needed
- Whether the work method itself must change

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