








3.4 Using the Mold Extractor Tongs

	Read and understand all of the following instructions regarding proper use of the mold extractor tongs before using the tongs. Any uses of these mold extractor tongs other than those outlined in this manual are not authorized.
	The instruction “Warning Read Operator’s Manual” is found on the handle of the mold extractor tong. The operator must read this manual and understand the proper techniques and safety equipment required for safe use of the mold extractor tongs.
	The “Pinch Point” hazard identifier is found on the handle of the mold extractor tong. This identifier warns of the potential pinch point between the handles of the mold extractor tongs. Exercise caution to avoid the pinch point while using the mold extractor tongs.
	Before using mold extractor tongs, check for loose hardware and any signs of damage to pegs at the end of the tongs and/or the handles.
	Always wear safety goggles, steel toe shoes, heat resistant clothing and heavy gloves while using the gyratory compactor and/or the mold extractor tongs.
	When extracting the mold from the compaction chamber, use proper lifting techniques to prevent back injury.
	Always use two hands when using the mold tongs to lift the mold. Maintain a constant squeezing pressure on the mold tong handles while moving the mold. The mold (and its contents) may cause injury if dropped. Exercise due caution and care when lifting the mold.

The easiest way to hold and carry the mold is to use the mold tongs. The tongs are especially useful for rotating and positioning the mold after it has been placed down into the compaction chamber.

Two pegs at the ends of the tongs mate with two small holes on the inside (upper) rim of the mold (see Figure 3-8). Once inside the holes, the two pegs securely grip the mold as long as the two tong handles are squeezed together.

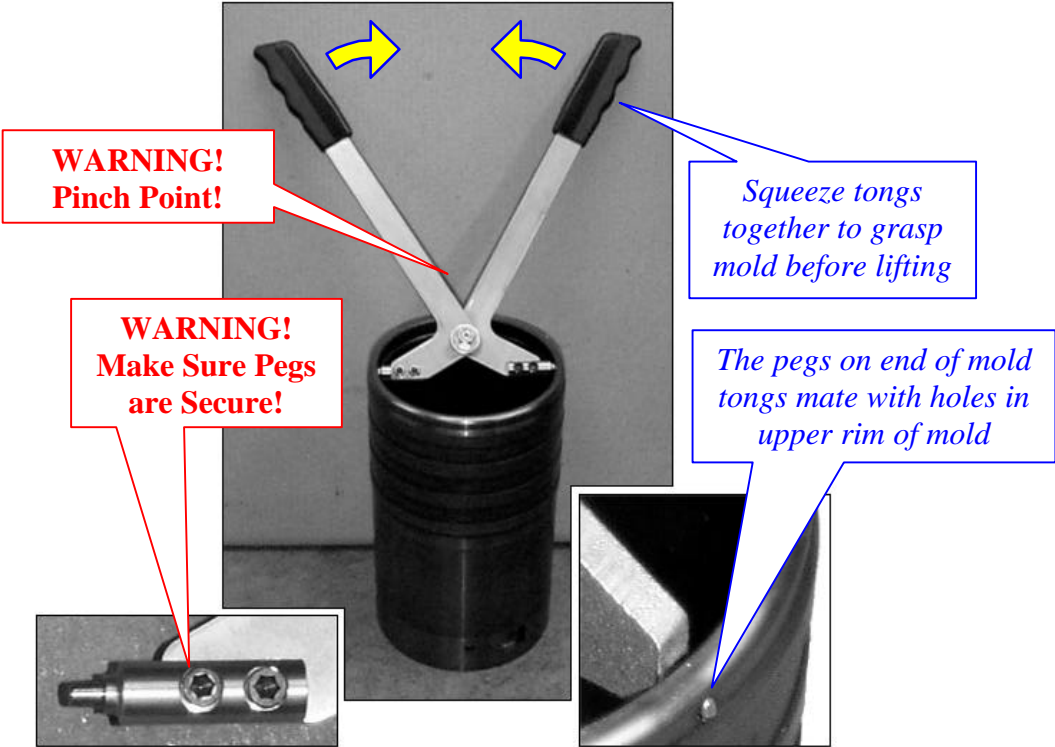


Figure 3-8: Using Mold Tongs to Lift Specimen Mold