



PRODUCT CATEGORY:

LOAD CELLS + PRESSURE SENSORS + STRESS METERS

Push-in Pressure Cell

A Push-in Pressure Cell, also called a Spade Cell, is designed to be pushed into the ground where it can measure total earth pressure and pore water pressure within the soil. It can be used as a site investigation tool to determine the in situ stress state, both vertical and horizontal, depending on the direction of installation. In addition, it can be used to monitor the change in active and passive pressure around retaining structures (diaphragm walls,...) as well as in tunneling, and other earthworks. Typical installations are in fine grained cohesive soils, including very soft to stiff clays.

Construction consists of two longitudinal stainless steel plates welded together around their periphery. The annular space between these plates is filled with deaired glycol. A port and filter for pore water pressure measurement are located on one of the flat sides of the support plate behind the pressure sensitive section of the cell.

The pressure cell and the port for the pore water pressure are connected via stainless steel tubes to two pressure transducers integrated in the cell, typically vibrating wire, or pneumatic, or strain gaged if dynamic measurements are to be performed. A thermistor for temperature measurement is also incorporated in the cell.

The installation method consists generally in drilling a pilot hole slightly shorter than the planned installation depth, and then to push the pressure cell about 1 meter past the bottom of the pilot hole using standard drill rods or CPT rods that will be left in place or retrieved at a later stage after measurements are completed. Push rods and a push adapter or an inverse thread adapter on the cell can also be used if the cell is to be pushed and left permanently in place with retrieval of the push rods.

> APPLICATIONS

Site investigation tool for estimation of in situ horizontal stress.	Risk assessment of hydraulic fracture of clay cores or cut-off trenches in dams.
Stress change adjacent to retaining walls.	Measurement of vertical and horizontal stresses to monitor clay cliffs degradation.
Monitoring stress redistribution around tunnels in soils.	Measurement of earth pressure changes during and after blasting compaction.
Measurement of lateral total earth pressure due to vibro stone columns and strip foundation loading.	

> FEATURES

Integrated pore pressure measurement.	Long term stability.
High accuracy and sensitivity.	Constant monitoring capability.
Either vibrating wire, pneumatic, or strain gauge transducers.	Ease of data logging.

> BENEFITS

✓ Increase Safety	✓ High Accuracy
✓ Increase Productivity	✓ High Reliability

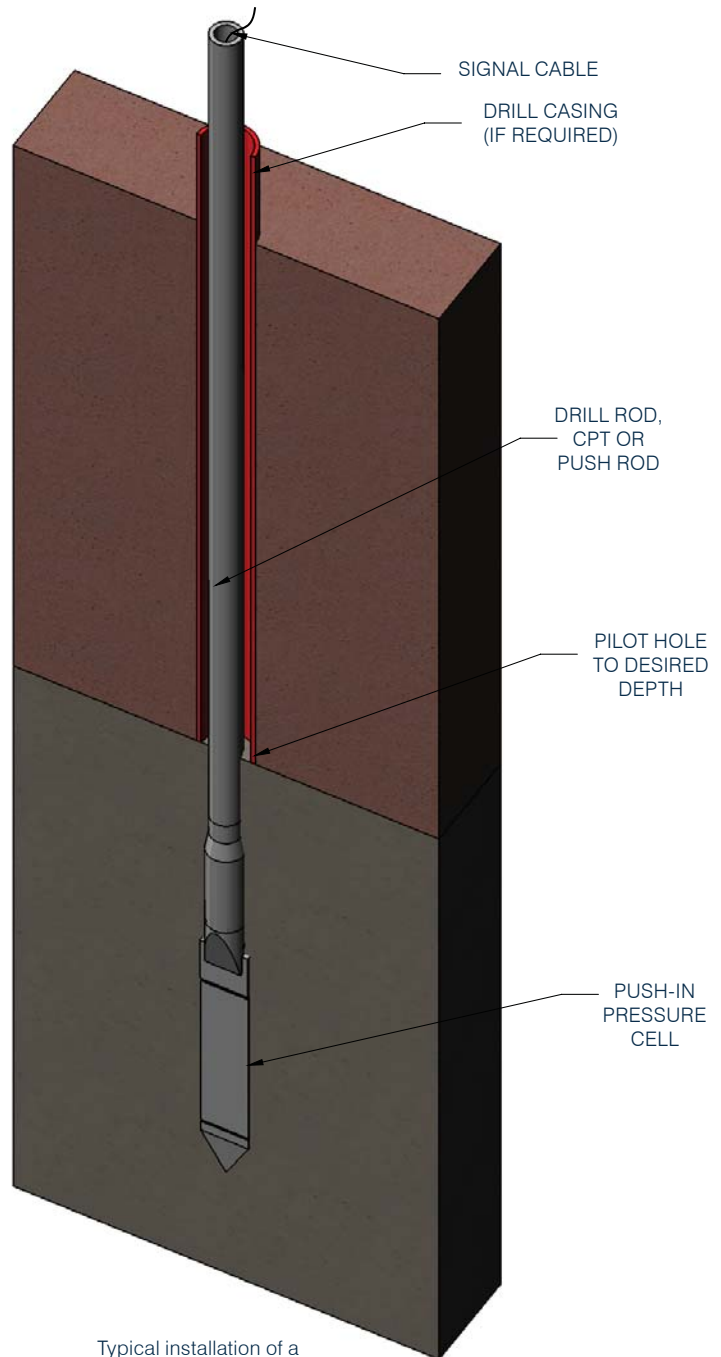
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SPECIFICATIONS + ORDERING

SPECIFICATIONS	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Capacity	350, 700 kPa 1, 2, 3, 5 MPa
Over Range	150% F.S. (maximum)
Resolution	0.025% F.S. (minimum)
Accuracy	± 0.5% F.S.
Sensor Type (earth and pore water pressure)	Vibrating Wire
Temperature Range	-20° to +80°C
Filter	50 micron sintered filter (high air entry alumina filter 1, 3, 5 Bar available)
Length x Diameter x Thickness (pressure sensitive section)	200 x 57 x 6.3 mm
Total Length	524 mm

ORDERING	
ITEM	PART #
6 Conductor Electrical Cable with polyurethane jacket	EL380006
Push-in Pressure Cell	VWPC2100



Typical installation of a Push-in Pressure Cell

For more information refer to:

Tedd, P. Powell, J.J. Charles, J.A. and Uglow, I.M. (1990). "In Situ measurement of earth pressures using push-in spade-shaped pressure cells – 10 years' experience". Geotechnical Instrumentation in Practice, Thomas Telford Ltd., London, 1990, ISBN: 072771515, pp. 701-715.

Richards, D.J., Clark, J., Powrie, W. and Heymann, G. (2007). "Performance of push-in pressure cells in overconsolidated clay". Geotechnical Engineering 160, January 2007, Issue GE1, pp.31-41.

Richards, D. J., Powrie, W., Roscoe, H. and Clark, J. (2007). "Pore water pressure and horizontal stress changes measured during construction of a contiguous bored pile multi-propped retaining wall in Lower Cretaceous clays" Geotechnique 57, No. 2, 197-205.