Qualified Signal Person



Loss Control Bulletin

Signal persons have a lot of safety responsibility. Inappropriate actions on the part of the signal person or failure to act when necessary can result in severe injuries to workers on the site. OSHA has general requirements for employees that are designated as a qualified signal person.

OSHA Requirements

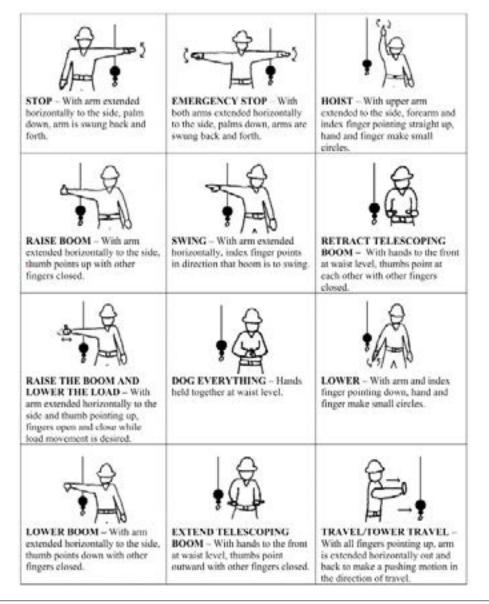
- A signal person is required when:
 - The point of operation is not in full view of the operator.
 - The operator's view is obstructed in the direction the equipment is traveling.
 - Either the operator or the person handling the load determines that a signal person is needed because of site-specific safety concerns.
- The employer of the signal person must ensure that each signal person meets the qualification requirements prior to giving any signals. This requirement must be met by using either Option (1) or Option (2).
 - **Option (1)--Third party qualified evaluator** The signal person has documentation from a third party qualified evaluator (an entity that, due to its independence and expertise, has demonstrated that it is competent in accurately assessing whether individuals meet the qualification requirements for a signal person).
 - **Option (2)--Employer's qualified evaluator** The employer's qualified evaluator (a person employed by the signal person's employer who has demonstrated that he/she is competent in accurately assessing whether individuals meet the qualification requirements for a signal person). Assesses the individual and determines that the individual meets the qualification requirements and provides documentation of that determination. An assessment by an employer's qualified evaluator under this option is not portable--other employers are not permitted to use it to meet the requirements of this section.
- The employer must make the documentation for whichever option is used available at the site while the signal person is employed by the employer. The documentation must specify each type of signaling (e.g. hand signals, radio signals, etc.) for which the signal person meets the requirements of a qualified signal person.
- If subsequent actions by the signal person indicate that the individual does not meet the qualification requirements, the employer must not allow the individual to continue working as a signal person until re-training is provided and a re-assessment is made.
- Each signal person must:
 - Know and understand the type of signals used. If hand signals are used, the signal person must know and understand the Standard Method for hand signals.
 - Be competent in the application of the type of signals used.
 - Have a basic understanding of equipment operation and limitations, including the crane dynamics involved in swinging and stopping loads and boom deflection from hoisting loads.
 - Know and understand the relevant requirements of 1926.1419 through 1926.1422 and 1926.1428.
 - Demonstrate that he/she meets the requirements through an oral or written test, and through a practical test.



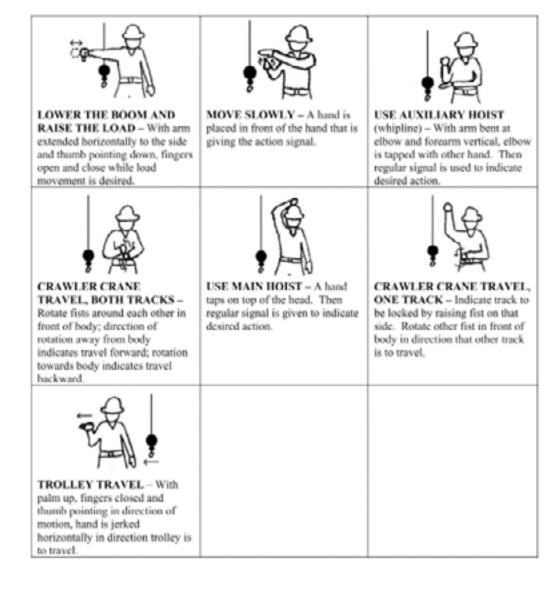
Signaling Safety Tips

- Before lift operations begins be sure to test all electronic transmission signal devices such as radios and telephones.
- When using voice signals only, make sure you and the equipment operator have agreed on the voice signals that will be used. Make sure each signal has a function direction, distance and/ or speed, and a stop command.
- Use the standard method for hand signals (attached at the end)
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- If you have to use non-standard hand signals, communicate with the equipment operator ahead of time. Make sure you both agree on the hand signals you will use.
- Make sure you are the only person signaling the operator.
- When you give the operator a direction to move the load, be sure to provide them from their direction perspective.
- Always be prepared to give an emergency stop signal.

Standard Hand Signals







References

- OSHA standard 1926.1428
- OSHA 1926 Subpart CC Appendix A Standard Hand Signals

IMPORTANT NOTICE - The information and suggestions presented by Umialik Insurance Company in this Technical Bulletin are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related, or other, laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter them to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.