



Hand signals for hoist and crane operations

If hand signals are used between a signaller and the operator of a crane or hoist to control hoisting operations, the following signals should be used:





Arm extended, palm down, move hand horizontal.

HOIST



With forearm vertical, finger pointing up, move hand in small horizontal circles.

LOWER



With arm extended down, move forefinger; pointing down, move hand in circles.

RAISE BOOM



Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb pointing upward.

LOWER BOOM



Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb pointing downward.

RAISE THE BOOM AND LOWER THE LOAD



With arm extended, thumb pointing up, flex fingers in and out as long as load movement is desired.



Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb pointing upward, other arm bent slightly with forefinger pointing down, and rotate hand.

LOWER THE BOOM AND RAISE THE LOAD



With arm extended, thumb down, flex fingers in and out as long as load movement is desired.



Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb down, other arm vertical, forefinger upward and rotate hand.

EXTEND BOOM



Both fists in front of body, with thumbs pointing outward.

RETRACT BOOM



Both fists in front of body, with thumbs pointing toward each other.

SWING



Arm extended, point in direction of swing of boom.

MOVE SLOWLY



Use one hand to give any motion signal and place other hand motionless in front of hand giving the motion signal (hoist slowly shown as example)

DOG (STOP) EVERYTHING



Clasp hands in front of body.

CRANE HAND SIGNALS

When should the crane operator follow hand signals?

A crane operator should always move loads according to the established code of signals, and use a signaler. Hand signals are preferred and commonly used. Unless they cannot see the load or the place where the load will be placed safely and reasonably. If there is any question on your ability to see the signal man or the load, another signal person but preferably a radio should be used.

Who can give the hand signals? or Who can be a signaler?

- ♦ A person qualified to give crane signals to the operator.
- ♦ There should be only one designated signaler at a time, unless one cannot see the other
- ♦ If signalers are changing between each other, the one in charge should wear a clearly visible badge of authority, or the crew and operator are fully aware of the main signal person.
- ♦ A crane operator should move loads only on signals from one signaler. Although an emergency stop or stop from anyone calls for a pause in movement until safety and situation is established
- ♦ A crane operator must obey STOP signals no matter who gives it

What should you do when in charge of signaling?

The signaler must:

- be in clear view of the crane operator, be aware of the standard signals for operators
- ♦ have a clear view of the load and the equipment
- ♦ keep persons outside the crane's operating area
- ♦ never direct a load over a person
- hold your hands away from your body so that the operator can clearly see them.
- if you are in the direction of the sun hold hands to side of body out of shadow
- always give signals according to the operator's right or left.
- do not give more signals than the operator can perform at one time.
- use a middle-man to transfer hand signals when you can't see the operator, or a radio.
- if multiple radios are being used on a jobsite be specific when calling or answering, which crane and hat which signalman or operator! Do not attempt to signal, hold a radio, and control the load all at once