

Standard Signals For Cranes, Hoists, Derricks, And Other Material Handlers

Because of the noise, confusion, and distance of crane operators from the guide person on construction jobs, verbal commands are often useless. Therefore, it is necessary to use hand signals, field telephones or two-way radios.

The following standards should apply to all material-handling cranes, hoists and derricks.

- A set of signals should be agreed upon and adopted at each operation where hoisting equipment is used. A legible chart depicting and explaining the signals to be used should be available in the vicinity of the hoisting operation.
- Regular signals from any one place should be given by a designated person. In an emergency, however, anyone may give a "stop" signal.
- All personnel should be in the clear before a signal is given to move a load or equipment.
- Cranes should only be moved under the direction of the designated signals. Mobile cranes and boom type excavators should be equipped with an audible signal device.
- Avoid fast operations. Fast swings cause the load to swing out, increasing the radius. Rapid hoisting or braking increases the stress on the equipment.
- The operator and all workers should wear the required personal protective clothing and equipment at all times on the job site.
- Traveling with a load should be avoided whenever possible.
- The signal person should be a qualified, responsible individual with no other duties.
- If you have any questions about a crane signal, be sure to clear it up before beginning any crane operations.

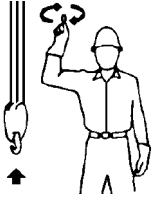
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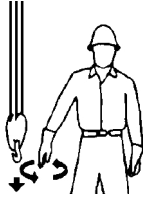
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Hand Signals



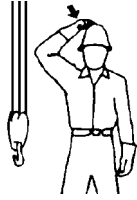
Hoist

With forearm vertical, forefinger pointing up, move hand in small horizontal circle.



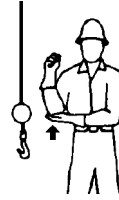
Lower

With arm extended downward, forefinger pointing down, move hand in small horizontal circles.



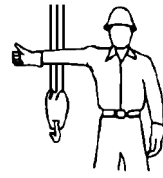
Use Main Hoist

Tap fist on head; then use regular signals.



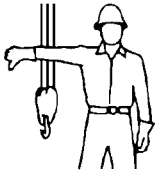
Use Whip Line

(Auxiliary Hoist)
Tap elbow with open hand; then use regular signals.



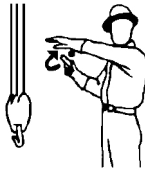
Raise Boom

Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb pointing upward.



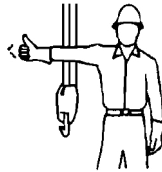
Lower Boom

Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb pointing downward.



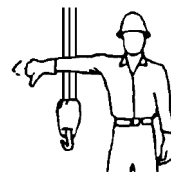
Move Slowly

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.)



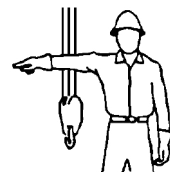
Raise the Boom and Lower the Load

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



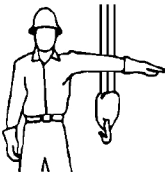
Lower the Boom and Raise the Load

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



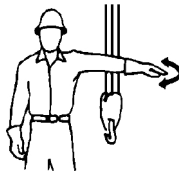
Swing

Arm extended, point with finger in direction of swing of boom.



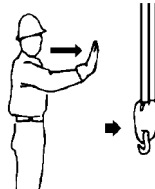
Stop

Arm extended, palm down, hold position rigidly.



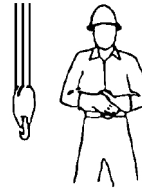
Emergency Stop

Arm extended, palm down, move hand rapidly right and left.



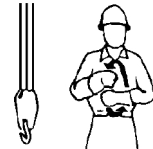
Travel

Arm extended forward, hand open and slightly raised, make pushing motion in direction of travel.



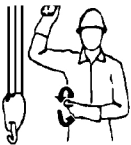
Dog Everything

Clasp hands in front of body.



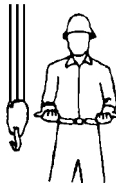
Travel

(Both Tracks)
Use both fists, in front of body, making a circular motion, about each other, indicating direction of travel, forward or backward. (For crawler cranes only.)



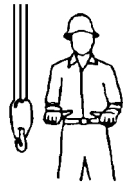
Travel

(One Track)
Lock the track on side indicated by raised fist. Travel opposite track in direction indicated by circular motion of other fist, rotated vertically in front of body. (For crawler cranes only.)



Extend Boom

(Telescoping Booms)
Both fists in front of body with thumbs pointing outward.



Retract Boom

(Telescoping Booms)
Both fists in front of body with thumbs pointing toward each other.



Extend Boom

(Telescoping Booms)
One Hand Signal. One fist in front of chest with thumb tapping chest.



Retract Boom

(Telescoping Booms)
One Hand Signal. One fist in front of chest, thumb pointing outward and heel of fist tapping chest.

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