

Hand Signals

Introduction

All crane operators and signal persons should be familiar with an established code of signals. Hand signals are the preferred and most commonly used method of communicating exactly what load movements are required to a crane operator.

Hook

Hoist



Forefinger pointing up,
move hand in small circles

Lower



Forefinger pointing down,
move hand in small circles

Slew



Arm extended with finger pointing in direction hook is to slew

Boom

Boom up



Arm extended, closed fist,
thumb pointing up

Boom Down



Arm extended, closed fist,
thumb pointing down

Extend Boom



Both fists in front of body
with thumbs pointing outward

Retract Boom



Both fists in front of body
with thumbs pointing inward

Slow Movement



Use one hand to give any motion signal and place other hand motionless above hand giving the motion signal.

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Communication

The signal person must be in clear view of the crane operator, and have a clear view of the load. If there is any question on the crane operator's ability to see the signal person or the load, the operator must safely stop operations until signal transmission is re-established.

Stowing Loads

Stow load on butt



Open hand patting backside

Stow load on top



Open hand patting top of head

Handling Loads

Pick up machine



Rotate hands in driving motion

Turn the load



Circle hands overhead

Cut off (head or slings)



Slicing/chopping motion with hands

Slings jammed



Arms extended & closed in front of chest

Arrest Signals

Stop



Open hand raised palm forward

Shut Off Power



A slashing motion across the throat

Dog Everything



Clasp hands in front of body

The signal person *MUST* be in clear view of the crane operator, and have a clear view of the load.