

# Hoisting Signals

## Basic rules

List places wire rope is used on site

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In many cases, hand signals are the most efficient form of communication between riggers and crane operators. Over the years, a system of standard hand signals has evolved that is now international.

There is a signal for each action of the crane from BOOM UP to BOOM DOWN, from TRAVEL FORWARD to STOP.

By using the correct hand signals you can get a crane to do almost anything you want. The operator only needs to clearly see and understand your signals.

In our next talk, we'll run through all the hand signals for hoisting. But first we have to know the ground rules for signalling.

### Identify

In hoisting operations, miscommunication between signaller and operator can lead to disaster for people or property.

### Communicate & Control

If you're going to rig a load, you also need to know the signals for lifting, moving, and landing it. The operation may be a simple LIFT and LOWER. Or it may require more complicated signals.

On construction sites, signalling is required in the following situations.

1. When the operator cannot see the load.
2. When the operator cannot see the load landing area.
3. When the operator cannot see the path of travel of either the load or the crane.
4. When the operator is too far from the load to judge distance accurately.
5. When the crane or other hoisting device is working close to live powerlines or equipment.

- Only one person should signal the operator. But anyone can give the STOP signal and it must be obeyed immediately. [Demonstrate signal.]

- Signals should be clear and, wherever possible, barehanded.

- The load should be directed so that it never passes over anyone.

- Operators should not make a move until they receive and understand your signal. If contact between you and the operator is broken for any reason, the operation must stop.

- Some situations call for two signallers. For instance, during a concrete pour, one signaller may be needed to direct the lift while the other directs the drop.

- Where a difficult lift demands voice communication, use two-way radios instead of hand signals.

Hand signals have their **limitations**. For example, they should never be used when distance, visibility, or noise prevents accurate communication with the operator.

### Demonstrate

Demonstrate the hand signals on the next page.