Rigging Hand Signals


Objectives

• Identify Hand signals
• Describe safe lifting and hoisting procedures

Hand Signaling (RULES)

1. Whenever the operator of lifting or hoisting equipment is unable to obtain a clear view of the path of the load or the path of the equipment.

2. A competent signaler must be stationed to get a clear view of the operation and the operator.

3. That signaler must direct all movements of the load from this vantage point.

4. Cranes which are capable of more than just up and down movement of their hook are controlled hand signals:
Rigging Hand Signals

Hand Signals

To signal "UP" or "HOIST".

1. With your forearm vertical and your forefinger pointing up, move your hand in small horizontal circles (Figure 1).

![Figure 1 Up or Hoist.](image)

Rigging Hand Signals

Hand Signals

To signal "LOWER".

1. With your forearm extended downward and your forefinger pointing down, move your hand in small horizontal circles (Figure 2).

![Figure 2 Lower.](image)
Rigging Hand Signals

Hand Signals

To signal “STOP”.
1. both your hands are free, extend both arms horizontally with your fingers outstretched (Figure 3).

2. If only one hand is free, you signal “STOP” by facing the palm of your hand toward the operator with your fingers outstretched and waving your hand from side to side (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Stop.

Rigging Hand Signals

Hand Signals

To signal “Raise and lower boom”.
1. Raising or lowering the boom is signaled with the arm extended, the fingers closed and the thumb indicating whether you want the boom raised or lowered (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Raise boom and lower boom.
To signal "Extend and Retract boom".

1. Cranes which are equipped with an extendible boom can be signaled to lengthen or shorten the boom. You do this by holding your fists in front of your body and pointing in or out with your thumbs (Figure 5).

Figure 5  Extend boom and retract boom

To signal "Swing boom".

1. To signal the crane operator to swing the boom, extend one arm and point with the index finger to indicate the direction of the swing (Figure 6).

Figure 6  Swing boom.
Rigging Hand Signals

Hand Signals

To signal "Lower the Boom-Raise the Load and Raise the Boom-Lower the load".
1. Dual motions can be signaled to the crane operator.

2. You can signal the operator to lower the boom while raising the load (which causes the load to move away from the crane) or to raise the boom while lowering the load (which moves the load closer to the crane).

3. You can do this with one or both hands.

4. When you are using only one hand, your thumb indicates the direction of the boom and flexing your fingers indicates the movement of the hook (Figure 7).

Figure 7 Lower the Boom-Raise the Load and Raise the Boom-Lower the load.

Rigging Hand Signals

Hand Signals

To signal "Hoist Slowly".
1. Whenever slow movement is required, you hold the palm of your free hand motionless in front of your other hand as it is giving the signal.

2. Figure 8 shows the signal for "HOIST SLOWLY".

Figure 8 Hoist Slowly.
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Load Up</td>
<td>Load Down</td>
<td>Load Up Slowly</td>
<td>Load Down Slowly</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Boom Down</td>
<td>Boom Up Slowly</td>
<td>Boom Down Slowly</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boom Up Load Down</td>
<td>Boom Down Load Up</td>
<td>Everything Slowly</td>
<td>Use Whip Line</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use Main Line</td>
<td>Travel Forward</td>
<td>Turn Right</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shorten Hydraulic Boom</td>
<td>Extend Hydraulic Boom</td>
<td>Swing Load</td>
<td>Stop</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close Clam</td>
<td>Open Clam</td>
<td>Dog Everything</td>
<td>No response should be made to unclear signals.</td>
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