

Safety Tips Sheet No. 1: Proper use of Hand Signals for cab-controlled cranes

This is the first in a series of Safety Tips developed by The Crane, Hoist and Monorail Alliance concerning the safe application and operation of overhead material handling equipment.

The operator of a cab-controlled crane should use a floor person to direct the lift, or placement, of a load and should respond to signals only from the person directing the lift. However, the operator should obey an emergency stop signal from any employee at all times. The operator of a cab-controlled crane and the floor person working with them should learn and use the industry standard signals.

There are nine industry standard hand signals that are used for communication between the operator in the crane's cab and the floor person. These signals are:



HOIST (RAISE)

- ▶ With forearm vertical—and forefinger pointing up—move hand in small horizontal circle.



LOWER

- ▶ With arm extended downward—and forefinger pointing down—move hand in small horizontal circle.



BRIDGE TRAVEL

- ▶ With arm extended forward—and hand open and slightly raised—make pushing motion in direction of travel.



TROLLEY TRAVEL

- ▶ With palm up—and fingers closed—point in direction of motion, and jerk hand horizontally.



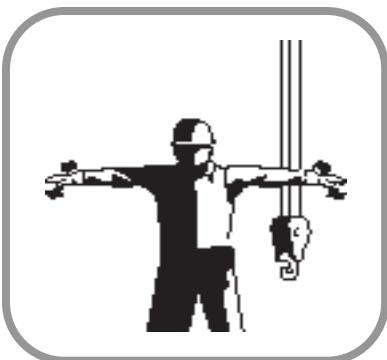
MOVE SLOWLY

- ▶ Use one hand to give any motion signal and place the other hand motionless in front of hand giving the motion signal by anyone present.



STOP

- ▶ With arm extended—and palm down—hold position rigidly.



EMERGENCY STOP

- ▶ With arms extended—and palm down—move hand rapidly to the right and left.



MULTIPLE HOIST CRANES

- ▶ Hold up one finger to indicate block 1, and two fingers to indicate block 2
- ▶ Follow with regular hand signals.



MAGNET DISCONNECTED

- ▶ With palms up, crane operators spreads both hands apart.

Note: Operators will only respond to directions given by the person directing the lift – except for an emergency stop signal, which must be obeyed when given by anyone present.