



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2018-10 (12 October 2018)

Signaling



Communicating with the operators of all hoisting/cargo moving equipment is an important part of marine cargo handling activities. OSHA permits crane operators to perform their work without the use of a signal person, **provided that** whenever the operator's view of the load is obstructed a signal person must be utilized to assist the operator. Also, in container crane operations, there must be an instantaneous means of communication (other than hand signaling) between the base of the crane and the operator's cabin.

Here are some tips that may be helpful to all longshore workers:

- Whenever possible, communicate clearly through the use of radios
- There are no "mandatory" OSHA hand signals. The only requirement is that both the operator and the signal person must clearly understand the signals being given. We recommend the posting of the signals being used,
- In any one given activity, **only one worker should be providing signals** to the operator
- Before giving any hoist signal, make sure that the load/container is correctly engaged/disengaged to allow free and safe movement
- If using hand signals, make sure that that your hand movements are clear and uncomplicated
- Keep your eyes on the load and on the landing area; be ready to signal "**STOP**" at a moment's notice if and when necessary

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

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