



# Acceptable Hand Signals

## SCORING CLARIFICATIONS

### 1. New OSHA 1926 Subpart CC, Appendix A Hand Signal Chart

OSHA's revision to the Federal Rule on Cranes and Derricks in Construction (29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC) went into effect on November 8, 2010. Part of that revision was publishing the OSHA Standard Method Hand Signal chart. The vast majority of the chart is identical to the ASME B30.5 and ASME B30.3 hand signals that are commonly used in the industry and were the basis for the NCCCO Signalperson Program.

NCCCO's policy is as follows: For all CCO Signalperson certification exams, all hand and voice signals must be given in accordance with OSHA 1926 Subpart CC. Where OSHA 1926 Subpart CC does not address a particular signal, ASME B30.5 and ASME B30.3 signals will be used (for example, one-handed telescoping boom signals).

Until the candidate video can be updated at a later date, Practical Examiners will be responsible for reading the updated Candidate Verbatim Instructions now included on the re-designed Signalperson Score Sheet.

### 2. SWING Signal: Candidates sticking out entire hand instead of just one finger.

*Note: This clarification also applies for HOIST and LOWER signals.*

The correct hand signal remains the same; candidates must use only one finger when they stick their hand out to indicate the appropriate direction of swing. The concern seems to be that many candidates begin giving the signal with all fingers pointing (often due to poor habits) and then realize their mistake at some point during the crane function and correct it. It is clear the candidate knows the intent of the signal, but in his/her rush to give an answer reverts to the old habit.

NCCCO's policy is as follows: If a candidate gives a "not totally accurate" SWING signal (e.g., all fingers pointing out instead of just the index finger) and then corrects it before the crane function has stopped (i.e., before the STOP signal is given), the candidate will be marked as giving the CORRECT signal. If the signal is never corrected, the candidate will be marked as giving the INCORRECT signal. If a totally wrong signal is initially given (e.g., BOOM UP, HOIST, TROLLEY, etc.) and then the signal is corrected to SWING, it should be considered as an INCORRECT signal.

### 3. BOOM UP AND LOWER LOAD Signal: Candidates having a hard time interpreting a BOOM UP function vs. BOOM UP AND LOWER LOAD function.

*Note: This clarification also applies for BOOM DOWN vs. BOOM DOWN AND RAISE LOAD signal.*

At times, there is an optical illusion on the image projection where the candidate is not able to quickly identify whether the crane function is BOOM UP or BOOM UP AND LOWER LOAD. Candidates do not recognize which signal it is and, as a result, only give BOOM UP and wait until midway through the crane function to flex fingers indicating that it should be BOOM UP AND LOWER LOAD.

NCCCO's policy is as follows: In scenarios where candidates are required to flex their fingers to demonstrate the BOOM UP AND LOWER LOAD signal, as long as a candidate begins to flex fingers before the crane function has stopped (before the STOP signal is given), the candidate will be marked as giving the CORRECT signal. If the fingers are never flexed, the candidate will be marked as giving the INCORRECT signal. If a totally wrong signal is initially given (e.g., HOIST, TROLLEY, etc.) and then the signal is corrected to the proper signal, it will be considered as INCORRECT signal.

### 4. TRAVEL BOTH TRACKS (Crawler Cranes) Signal: Conflict between OSHA 1926 Subpart CC and ASME B30.5 hand signal.

The current publication of the Federal Rule governing Cranes and Derricks in Construction went into effect as of November 8, 2010. If the signal descriptions are read carefully in Appendix A of the rule, it is noted that the TRAVEL BOTH TRACKS signal is in direct conflict with the long-time established ASME B30.5 hand signal. This has been discussed with OSHA officials, who have stated that this was a mistake and will be corrected in a future technical amendment. Until that time, there are two different (and conflicting) signals as industry standards.

NCCCO's policy is as follows: Until OSHA issues the technical amendment, NCCCO will not practically test candidates on the TRAVEL BOTH TRACKS hand signal.

**5. One-handed vs. two-handed EXTEND BOOM signal:**

*Note: This clarification also applies to one-handed vs. two-handed RETRACT BOOM signal.*

As OSHA has not published the one-handed signal for extend or retract boom, it is not officially considered a standard hand signal.

NCCCO's policy is as follows: When a candidate is asked to give a standard hand signal for EXTEND BOOM and no tagline is present, only the two-handed signal will be considered CORRECT. If a tagline is present, the one-handed EXTEND BOOM signal will be considered CORRECT.

**6. MOVE SLOWLY signal:**

Given the subject nature of slow vs. fast movements, NCCCO does not specifically require or restrict the use of the modifier hand signal MOVE SLOWLY.

NCCCO's policy is as follows: A MOVE SLOWLY signal (e.g., HOIST SLOWLY, SWING SLOWLY, LOWER SLOWLY) may be given at any time during the NCCCO Practical Exam. A MOVE SLOWLY signal will not constitute an INCORRECT answer. The candidate must give the accurate signal to be given credit.