



## **Cranes and Derricks in Construction Fact Sheet Qualified Signal Persons**

### **When is a signal person required?**

A signal person is required when:

- The point of operation is not in full view of the operator.
- The operator's view is obstructed in the direction the equipment is traveling.
- Either the operator or the person handling the load determines that a signal person is needed because of site-specific safety concerns.

### **When is a signal person considered to be qualified?**

A signal person is considered qualified if he or she:

- Knows and understands the type of signals used at the worksite.
- Is competent in using these signals.
- Understands the operations and limitations of the equipment, including the crane dynamics involved in swinging, raising, lowering and stopping loads and in boom deflection from hoisting loads.
- Knows and understands the relevant signal person qualification requirements.
- Passes an oral or written test and a practical test.

### **How does a signal person become qualified?**

Employers must use one of the following options to ensure that a signal person is qualified.

1. *Third party qualified evaluator.* The signal person has documentation from a third party qualified evaluator showing that he or she meets the qualification requirements.
2. *Employer's qualified evaluator* (not a third party). The employer's qualified evaluator assesses the individual, determines the individual meets the qualification requirements, and provides documentation of that determination. This assessment may not be relied on by other employers.

### **How can an employer show that a signal person is appropriately qualified?**

Employers must make the documentation of the signal person's qualifications available at the worksite, either in paper form or electronically. The documentation must specify each type of signaling (e.g., hand signals, radio signals, etc.) for which the signal person is qualified under the requirements of the standard.

### **When was a signal persons required to be qualified?**

The qualification requirements for signal persons became effective on November 8, 2010.

This fact sheet describes the signal person qualification requirements of 29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction, specifically 29 CFR 1926.1419 - 1926.1422 and 1926.1428. Other requirements related to signal persons can be found at 29 CFR 1926.1404, 1926.1430, 1926.1431, and 1926.1441.