

SIGNALLING A CRANE

Two voices, a blind operator, a person in the path.

Rev 01 Effective 2026-09-01 Review 2027-09-01 Printed copy uncontrolled

THE JOB

Directing the crane so the operator moves only on a signal they can trust. Method: PROVEN-SWP-005 / 007.

WHO IS EXPOSED

Signalperson
Operator
Riggers in the zone
Other trades who can enter the path

A JHA names what can hurt someone and how that risk is controlled. It is not the procedure. Do the work to the matching SWP.

HAZARDS AND RISK

Task is the work being analysed. Controls follow eliminate, substitute, engineer, administer, PPE last. Extreme is the killer with no recovery. High is serious injury or a dropped load you still have a chance to stop.

TASK	HAZARD	LEVEL	RISK	CONTROL
Name one signalperson	Two people signalling	HIGH	Operator picks the convenient instruction. Load into a person or a structure.	One voice. Transfer spoken and acknowledged. 14.47.
Agree the system	Non-standard hands, wrong channel, private dialect	MODERATE	Operator translates. Translation is a guess. Guess is a collision.	Standard signals. Channel and STOP in the brief. Dedicated radio where 14.49 requires it.
See the load, path and operator	Blind corner, glare, signalperson also rigging	HIGH	Boom or load into steel, lines or people the operator cannot see.	If you cannot see, you are not signalling. Dedicated spotter or stop. Blind lifts: PROVEN-JHA-005.
Hold the zone	Trades walking the fall line while the signalperson is busy	EXTREME	Struck-by. 14.44.	Hands are for the crane. Zone is a control, not a courtesy. Anyone may STOP.

RESIDUAL RISK

Radios fail and hands get lost in glare. Residual risk is a crane that moves on silence or on the wrong person. Held by a hard STOP and by not moving until the crew is reset. 14.47-14.49.

THE JOB DOES NOT PROCEED IF

Two people signalling
Cannot see load, path or operator - and no dedicated radio protocol
Radio untested or garbage
Zone lost

PPE - LAST LINE

Hard hat
CSA-grade footwear
High-visibility clothing
Eye protection
Task-rated gloves

Hearing protection where required
Fall protection where the work exposes a fall

MATCHING SWP

SWP - CRANE COMMUNICATION -> <https://sin.ae.org/safety/swp/crane-communication>

REFERENCES

Workers Compensation Act s. 21(2)(b) - workers made aware of known or reasonably foreseeable hazards
Workers Compensation Act s. 21(2)(e) - information, instruction, training and supervision
OHS Regulation B.C. Reg. 296/97 (in force 15 Apr 1998) Part 3 - program, instruction, inspections (ss. 3.1-3.12)
CCOHS Job Safety Analysis - JSA and JHA are the same method: break the job, name the hazards, select controls
Workers Compensation Act s. 21 - known or reasonably foreseeable hazards; instruction and supervision
OHS Regulation (B.C. Reg. 296/97, in force 15 Apr 1998) Part 3 - OHS program, instruction, inspections
OHS Regulation Part 4 s. 4.13 - risk assessment where rescue or evacuation may arise
OHS Regulation Part 8 - PPE; headwear CSA Z94.1-05 or Z94.1-15
OHS Regulation Part 11 - fall protection
OHS Regulation Part 14 - Cranes and Hoists
14.2(5) - CSA Z150-1998, or ASME B30.5-2004, or ASME B30.22-2005 (articulating boom)
14.2(6) - CSA Z248-2004 for tower, hammerhead and self-erecting tower cranes
14.35 pre-use inspection 14.36 load weight 14.42.1 critical lift 14.44 loads over work areas 14.45 unattended loads
14.47-14.49 signals
OHS Regulation Part 15 - Rigging
Manufacturer load chart, manual and configuration limits
Site lift plan, FLHA and site rules where stricter