

**LAND COMPENDIUM OF
HAND SIGNALS**

APP-14(A)

5 December 2008

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
NATO STANDARDIZATION AGENCY (NSA)
NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION**

5 December 2008

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RECORD OF CHANGES

Change Date	Date Entered	Effective Date	By whom Entered

RECORD OF RESERVATIONS

NATIONS	SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS

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CHAPTER 1

Basic Military Road Traffic Regulations

- (Part I) Hand signals for guiding or marshalling any single vehicle by day.
(Part II) Hand signals for guiding or marshalling any single vehicle when visibility precludes the use of day signals.

0101 Aim

1. The aim of this Chapter is to standardise vehicle marshalling signals.

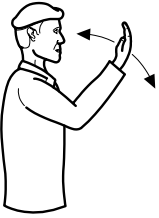
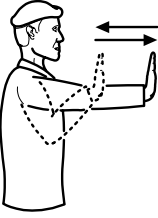
0102 Signals For Guiding And Marshalling A Single Vehicle

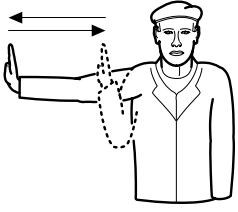
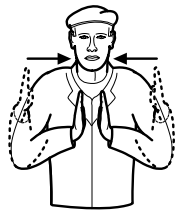


1. The general rules for using hand signals to the driver of a vehicle are designed for use by the Guide/Marshaller facing the vehicle. To clarify and identify which vehicle is to be moved, the Guide/Marshaller must point both hands or a single hand with trigger finger to the vehicle/item and then proceed with the signal(s):
 - a. Operators are to recognize only signals from the designated Guide/Marshaller. All signals must be given correctly and clearly to avoid confusion. However, an operator must obey a STOP signal no matter who gives it. For operations not covered by standard hand signals, special signals shall be agreed on in advance by both the operator and the guide, and should not conflict with any standard signals.
 - b. The signals must be given from a place, in full view of the driver of the guided vehicle with the guide facing the vehicle driver.
 - c. If the guide has to move, the guided vehicle must be stopped beforehand; this refers specifically to the guiding of vehicles onto/off: rail flat wagons; aircraft; when being piggybacked on another vehicle/Flatrack; or onto/inside a vessel/raft in order to avoid accidents by walking backwards.
 - d. When a vehicle is being reversed it is mandatory for a Guide/Marshaller (in future 'the guide') to assist the vehicle driver. If the reversing manoeuvre is towards a solid object (e.g. building, another vehicle) a second Guide may be required to assist the key Guide/Marshaller (who is standing in sight of the vehicle driver). This second Guide is to give the 'Indicating Distance' signal to the key Guide to avoid a collision. He/she must always be able to see the key Guide; be aware of the reversing vehicle's movements; and must never go between the reversing vehicle and the solid object.
 - e. Signals must be repeated as long as the guided vehicle is moving or has to move into the given direction.

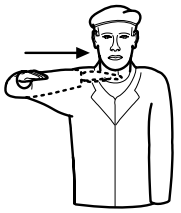

- f. During the guiding/marshalling, the vehicle must move slowly and under control.
 - g. Day signals may be combined, by the guide, according to circumstances and the size of the marshalling area.
 - h. When the visibility is such that day signals are impracticable, the signal must be given by means of an illuminating device (torch, flash light, signal lamp, etc.) with the light pointing towards the vehicle.
 - i. During darkness if the illuminating device fails to function, the guided vehicles must stop immediately.
2. The term, 'Vehicle' includes all tracked or wheeled vehicles and Material Handling Equipment.

PART I

HAND SIGNALS FOR GUIDING OR MARSHALLING ANY SINGLE VEHICLE BY DAY

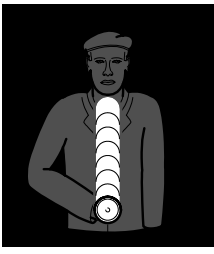
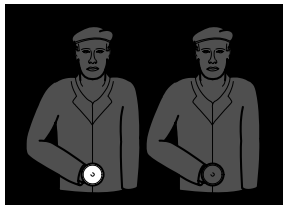
SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. With both hands moving backwards and forward; b. Palms of the hand turned to the chest; c. As "pulling" the vehicle. 	"ADVANCE" or "MOVE FORWARD"
2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. With both hands moving forward and backward; b. Palms of the hand turned to the vehicle; c. As "pushing away" the vehicle. 	"REVERSE"

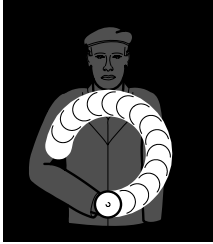

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
3.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hand moving from shoulder, horizontally into the direction into which the vehicle must be turned; b. "Turn to the left" is given with the right arm; c. "Turn to the right" is given with the left arm; d. The speed, in which the hand is moved, indicates the speed of turning the vehicle. 	"TURN TO THE LEFT/ RIGHT"
4.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. With both hands; b. Palms of the hand facing each other; c. Distance between hands indicates the distance between the guided vehicle and an obstacle to be approached. d. Touching hands means that the distance between the guided vehicle and the obstacle has become nil. 	"INDICATING DISTANCE"
5.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. One or both hands raised vertically; b. Palms (or Palm) of the hands turned to the vehicle. 	"STOP"
6.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Both arms crossed at the wrists, which are held above the head; b. Palms face forwards towards operator. 	"EMERGENCY STOP"

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
7.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. With the right arm; b. Cutting motion across the throat; c. Extend the arm and bend across the chest from the elbow to the throat. 	"STOP ENGINE"
8.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cross the wrists in front of the chest, fists clenched. b. Extend the arm in the direction the neutral turn is to be made. c. Both hands to the side of the body or a fresh signal to end the movement. 	"NEUTRAL TURN/STEER TO THE LEFT/RIGHT" (for tracked vehicles)

PART II

HAND SIGNALS FOR GUIDING OR MARSHALLING ANY SINGLE VEHICLE WHEN VISIBILITY PRECLUDES THE USE OF DAY SIGNALS

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
9.		With an illuminating device moving vertically from chin to waist.	"ADVANCE"
10.		With an illuminating device (not moving the device) give an occulting (flashing) signal.	"REVERSE"

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
11.		<p>With an illuminating device, at least chest level, rotating slowly in a circular motion (clockwise or anti-clockwise to the driver).</p>	<p>"TURN"</p> <p>a. Clockwise - turn right.</p> <p>b. Anti-clockwise - turn left.</p>
12.		<p>Switch off or cover the illuminating device.</p>	<p>a. "STOP"</p> <p>b. See note (1).</p>

NOTE (1): Drivers must stop their vehicles when any other light signal is given; unless the signal is agreed in principle between the driver and the guide prior to the marshalling.

CHAPTER 2

Hand Signals for Guiding Forklift Trucks and Cranes

0201 Aim

1. The aim of this Chapter is to ensure that all Nations use the same hand signals when guiding materials handling equipment (MHE).

0202 Definitions

1. The following definitions are to be used for the purpose of this agreement:
 - a. Operator A person, operating the equipment which is carrying out the function being controlled.
 - b. Guide/Marshaller/Slinger/Bankman A person, who assists the operator, usually attaching/removing slings and giving hand signals and guidance to the operator.

0203 General

1. This Chapter is intended to supplement national policies when necessary to provide for interoperability amongst member nations.
2. It is not intended to replace any specialist hand signals developed by nations.

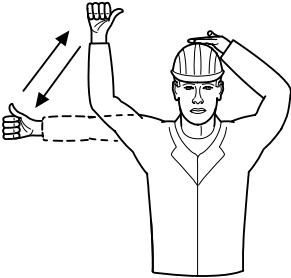
0204 Signals For Guiding And Marshalling A Single Vehicle

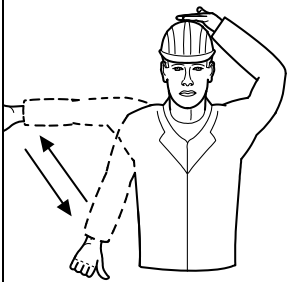
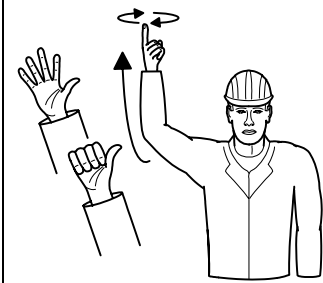
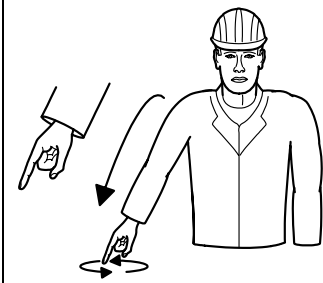
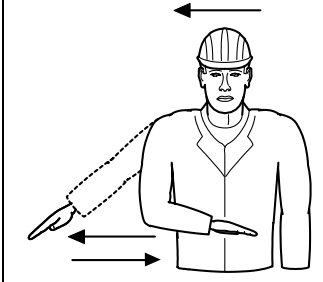
1. The general rules for using all hand signals to operators are given below:
 - a. Operators are to recognize only signals from the designated Guide/Marshaller. All signals must be given correctly and clearly to avoid confusion. However, an operator must obey a STOP signal no matter who gives it. For operations not covered by standard hand signals, special signals shall be agreed on in advance by both the operator and the guide, and should not conflict with any standard signals.
 - b. The signals must be given from a place, in full view of the driver of the guided vehicle with the guide facing the vehicle driver.
 - c. If the guide has to move, the guided vehicle must be stopped beforehand; this refers specifically to the guiding of vehicles onto/off: rail flat wagons; aircraft; when being piggybacked on another vehicle/Flatrack; or onto/inside a vessel/raft in order to avoid accidents by walking backwards.

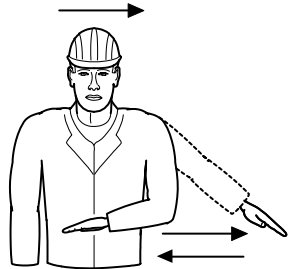
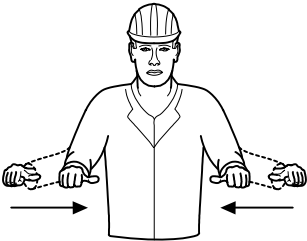
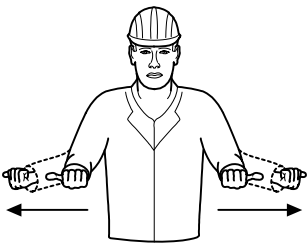

- d. When vehicles are being reversed, extra guides are recommended for safety at the rear of the reversing vehicle.
 - e. Signals must be repeated as long as the guided vehicle is moving or has to move into the given direction.
 - f. During the guiding/marshalling, the vehicle must move slowly and under control.
 - g. Day signals may be combined, by the guide, according to circumstances and the size of the marshalling area.
2. MHE operations normally occur in daylight or artificially lit areas but hand signals for guiding or marshalling single vehicles when visibility precludes the use of day signals may be enhanced by:
- a. Flashlights/torches, and other items can be used provided their use is standardized and understood by the operator and guide.
 - b. Use of one flashlight; however if a situation uses two flashlights: use coned flashlights red (normally in right hand) and green (normally in left hand).
 - c. In addition, night vision goggles can assist during low-light or night operations. However, MHE operators are not normally trained with night vision goggles.
 - d. Operator/Signaller/Banksman to agree/confirm signals prior to start of operations.

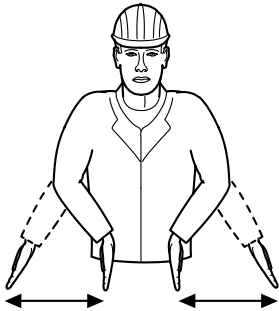
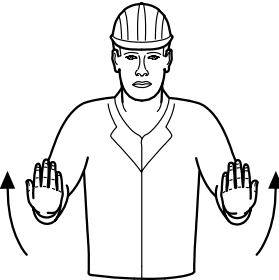
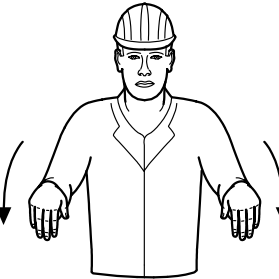
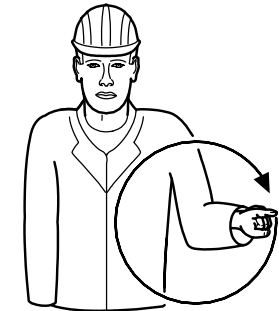
PART I

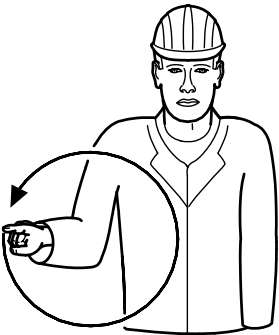
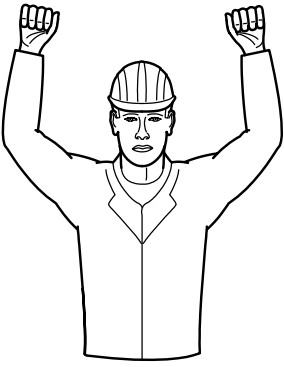
HAND SIGNALS FOR GUIDING FORKLIFT TRUCKS AND CRANES

SERIAL	HAND SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Signal with one hand, other hand on head. b. Raise right arm to horizontal position. c. Extend thumb upwards. Raise and lower arm. 	BOOM/JIB UP

SERIAL	HAND SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
2.		<p>a. Signal with one hand, other hand on head.</p> <p>b. Raise right arm to horizontal position.</p> <p>c. Extend thumb downwards.</p> <p>d. Lower and raise arm.</p>	BOOM/JIB DOWN
3.		<p>a. Clench & Unclench hand, to signal take the strain.</p> <p>b. Raise right arm from the shoulder.</p> <p>c. Point index finger upward.</p> <p>d. Rotate hand in a clockwise motion.</p>	RAISE FORKS/HOOK UP
4.		<p>a. Extend index finger of right hand downwards.</p> <p>b. Rotate hand in an anti-clockwise motion.</p>	LOWER FORKS/HOOK DOWN
5.		<p>a. Bend right arm at the elbow until hand is horizontal with palm facing down.</p> <p>b. Move hand horizontally sideways and repeat.</p>	SIDE SHIFT FORKS/ SLEW LEFT

SERIAL	HAND SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
6.		<p>a. Bend left arm at the elbow until hand is horizontal with palm facing down.</p> <p>b. Move hand horizontally sideways and repeat.</p>	<p>SIDE SHIFT FORKS/ SLEW RIGHT</p>
7.		<p>a. Clenched fists, thumbs pointing inwards.</p> <p>b. Move hands towards each other.</p>	<p>RETRACT JIB/ BOOM TROLLEY IN MAST IN</p>
8.		<p>a. Clenched fists, thumbs pointing outwards.</p> <p>b. Move hands apart.</p>	<p>EXTEND JIB/BOOM TROLLEY OUT MAST OUT</p>
9.		<p>a. Raise hands by bending arms at elbows until palms face each other.</p> <p>b. Move hands together and apart in a sideways motion.</p>	<p>FORK SPACING - TOGETHER</p>

SERIAL	HAND SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
10.		<p>a. Extend all fingers downwards palms facing outwards.</p> <p>b. Move hands together and apart in a sideways motion.</p>	FORK SPACING - APART
11.		<p>a. Hang arms downwards at sides of body.</p> <p>b. Raise arms by bending at the elbows until horizontal.</p> <p>c. Position palms upwards.</p> <p>d. Move both hands at wrists in an upward motion.</p> <p>e. Recover hands to horizontal position and repeat action.</p>	TILT FORKS UP
12.		<p>a. Hang arms downwards at sides of body.</p> <p>b. Raise arms by bending at the elbows until horizontal.</p> <p>c. Position palms upwards.</p> <p>d. Move both hands at wrists in a downward motion.</p> <p>e. Recover hands to horizontal position and repeat action.</p>	TILT FORKS DOWN
13.		<p>a. Hang arms downwards at sides of body.</p> <p>b. Raise left hand by bending elbow until horizontal.</p> <p>c. Extend index finger pointed towards operator of the equipment.</p> <p>d. Rotate hand in an anti-clockwise motion.</p>	FORK OSCILLATION - RIGHT

SERIAL	HAND SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
14.		<p>a. Hang arms downwards at sides of body. b. Raise right hand by bending elbow until horizontal. c. Extend index finger pointed towards operator of the equipment. d. Rotate hand in a clockwise motion.</p>	<p>FORK OSCILLATION LEFT</p>
15.		<p>One or both hands raised vertically; but with closed hand/fist to the operator, not showing open, flat palm(s).</p>	<p>STOP (MHE motion to stop; e.g. Stop up/down and all motions).</p>

CHAPTER 3

Hand Signals for Recovery Operations

0301 Aim

1. The aim of this Chapter is to standardise hand signals specifically used during recovery tasks.

0302 Definitions

1. The following definitions are to be used for the purpose of this agreement:
 - a. Operator A person operating a piece of recovery equipment who is reacting to the hand signals of the Recovery Task Commander.
 - b. Recovery Task Commander The person designated as being responsible for the recovery task, including the safe operation of all recovery equipment, and is the person giving the hand signals.
 - c. Recovery Operation A single activity or use of a single piece of recovery equipment.
 - d. Recovery Task The overall activity of recovering/extricating/moving an equipment. Can consist of one or more sequential or simultaneous recovery operations.

0303 General

1. This Chapter contains only those hand signals specific to recovery tasks. These are winching and earth anchors/blades operations. The hand signals included in Chapters 1 and 2 of this APP are to be used as appropriate:

- a. Manoeuvring Single Vehicles Use hand signals in Chapter 1 of this APP for manoeuvring single vehicles, day and reduced visibility.
- b. Stabilising Legs Extending legs or other devices intended to assist in stabilizing a recovery vehicle are to be considered as a crane for the purposes of deployment and stowage. Use hand signals in Chapter 2 of this APP.
- c. Cranes Use hand signals in Chapter 2 of this APP for static or mobile crane jibs/booms and trolleys.
- d. Booms Use hand signals in Chapter 2 of this APP for hydraulically or mechanically deployed booms.

2. A recovery task remains a hazardous activity. The overriding principle remains that the person nominated as the Recovery Task Commander of the recovery task must ensure that the operator, or operators, of recovery equipment understand the hand signals to be used. For operations not covered by standard hand signals, special signals may be agreed. All signals to be used must be confirmed by the operator or operators and the Recovery Task Commander, before commencing the recovery task. If multiple operators are to be used the Recovery Task Commander must point both hands, or a single hand with trigger finger, to the operator that is now to follow his hand signals.

3. Operators are to recognize only signals from the designated Recovery Task Commander. All signals must be given correctly and clearly to avoid confusion. However, an operator must obey a STOP signal no matter who gives it.

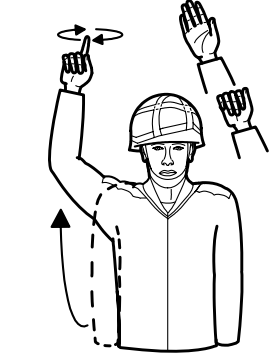
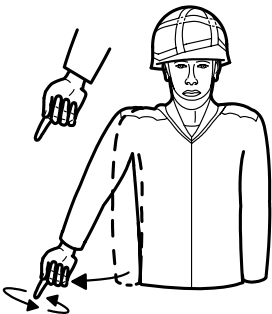

- a. The Recovery Task Commander must be in full view of the operator and where possible a safe distance from the recovery equipment. Where the task requires the Recovery Task Commander to be within the danger area he must be the only person within it.


Where possible, and safe for the Recovery Task Commander, the signals must be in full view of the operator of the recovery equipment.

- b. If the Recovery Task Commander has to move, the recovery operation must be stopped beforehand and not recommence until the Recovery Task Commander is settled into the new location.
- c. Signals must be repeated as long as the recovery operation is needed. If the Recovery Task Commander stops giving a hand signal then the operator must immediately stop the recovery operation.
- d. Signals may be combined, by the Recovery Task Commander, so directing two operators simultaneously, only if it is safe to do so and only if it is absolutely necessary for the successful completion of the recovery task.


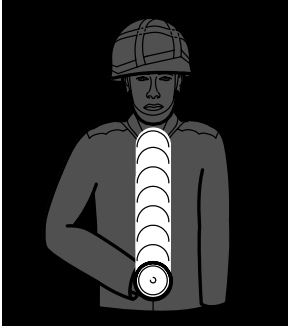
4. Recovery operations should occur in daylight or artificially lit areas whenever possible. However when the visibility is such that hand signals are impracticable, signals may be given by means of an illuminating device (torch, flash light, signal lamp, etc.) with the light pointing towards the operator. All signals to be used must be confirmed by the operator or operators and the Recovery Task Commander, before commencing the recovery task. If the illuminating device fails to function, the operator must stop the recovery operation immediately. The use of night vision goggles can assist the operator to see the Recovery Task Commander. When the use of light signals is not possible vehicle intercoms systems or radios may be used. Once again any verbal commands must be clear and agreed between the operator or operators and the Recovery Task Commander, before commencing the recovery task.


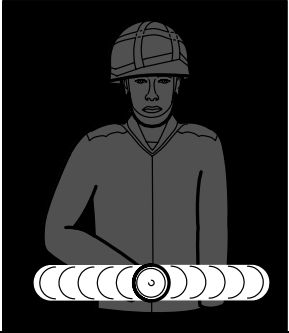
0304 Winching By Day

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
1.		<p>a. Clench & Unclench hand, to signal take the strain. b. Raise right arm from the shoulder. c. Point index finger upward. d. Rotate hand in a clockwise motion. e. <u>Note</u>: Same signal as crane hook up.</p>	<p>"WINCH IN"</p>
2.		<p>a. Extend index finger of right hand downwards. b. Rotate hand in an anti-clockwise motion. c. <u>Note</u>: Same signal as crane hook down.</p>	<p>"WINCH OUT"</p>
3.		<p>a. One or both hands raised vertically; b. Palms (or Palm) of the hands turned to the vehicle. c. <u>Note</u>: Universal STOP signal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>a. Both arms crossed at the wrist/lower arm, which are held above the head. b. Palms face forwards towards operator. c. <u>Note</u>: Emergency STOP signal.</p>	<p>"STOP WINCHING"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>"EMERGENCY STOP"</p>

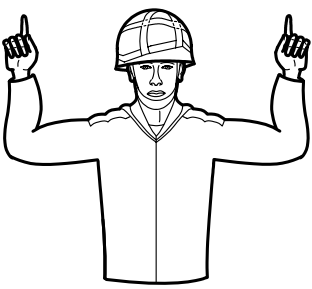
SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
4.		a. Forward rotating motion of forearms in front of chest.	"FREE SPOOL"


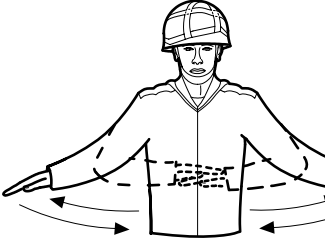
0305 Winching By Night

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
1.		a. With an illuminating device at chest level, rotating slowly in a circular motion (clockwise or anticlockwise).	"WINCH IN"
2.		a. With an illuminating device moving vertically from chin to waist. b. <u>Note</u> : Same as vehicle advance signal.	"WINCH OUT"

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
3.		<p>a. Switch off or cover the illuminating device.</p> <p>b. <u>Note:</u> Same as vehicle STOP signal.</p>	"STOP WINCHING"
4.		<p>a. With an illuminating device moving the device horizontally left to right at waist level and repeat.</p>	"FREE SPOOL"

0306. Earth Anchors/Blades By Day

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
1.		<p>a. Raise both arms from the shoulder.</p> <p>b. Point index fingers upwards.</p>	"RAISE EARTH ANCHOR OR BLADE"

SERIAL	ILLUSTRATION OF SIGNAL	DESCRIPTION OF SIGNAL	MEANING OF SIGNAL
2.		<p>a. Bend both arms at the elbow, with hands at waist height.</p> <p>b. Point index fingers downwards.</p>	<p>“LOWER EARTH ANCHOR OR BLADE”</p>
3.		<p>a. Bend both arms at the elbow, with hands at waist height, palms facing down.</p> <p>b. Move both hands horizontally sideways and repeat.</p>	<p>“FLOAT EARTH ANCHOR OR BLADE”</p>

Note: No currently agreed reduced visibility/night signals. No requirement for night blade hand signals.