Variable reach lift truck hand signals

Explain dangers

Variable reach lift trucks are known by many names such as articulating or telescopic lift trucks, telehandlers, and zoom booms. Workers have suffered serious injuries from being struck by a lift truck or its load. Workers have also been crushed by shelving that has collapsed on top of them after being struck by a lift truck. Lift truck incidents cause a lot of property damage as well.

Identify controls

If a person could be endangered by equipment or its load, a signaller must be used to help the operator.

The operator and the signaller must decide on a way to communicate with each other. Often the best way is to use clear, standard hand signals. Here are some standard hand signals for working with variable reach lift trucks.

Demonstrate

Demonstrate the hand signals below. Ask your crew to practise them so that they become natural.

Hand out IHSA’s pocket-sized Variable Reach Lift Truck Hand Signals Card (V014).