

Around the Provinces: Powered Mobile Equipment Signaller Requirements Across Canada



Incidents involving forklifts and other powered mobile equipment are a leading cause of workplace injuries. And while all jurisdictions require employers to deploy signallers to direct PME operators, the rules vary significantly from place to place. Here's a summary of the PME signaller rules in each part of Canada

OHS Requirements for Use of Signallers to Direct Powered Mobile Equipment (PME) Operators

FEDERAL

Signaller Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *When PME operator has obstructed view *When rear-dumping PME used to discharge loads at edge of sudden drop in grade level (unless bumping block is used to keep the PME from tipping) *At approaches to areas in which materials handling operations take place (unless warning signs are posted)
Signaller Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Not perform other duties while signalling operator *Ensure nearby workers are safe or warned before signalling operator to move
Other Requirements	<p><u>Employer must:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Establish uniform code of signals for use at all its workplaces <p><u>Operator must</u> obey signals + treat any signal they don't understand as STOP</p>

ALBERTA

Signaller Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When PME operator has obstructed view (unless PME has audible warning device or automatic stopping system)
Signaller Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Wear a highly visible vest, armband or other clothing clearly identifying worker as designated signaller when giving hand signals *Ensure he/she has unobstructed view *Ensure there are no hazards in vicinity before signalling operator to move

Employer must:

- *Designate competent worker as signaller
 - *Provide the required highly visible vest, armband or other clothing clearly identifying worker as designated signaller
 - *Ensure only one designated signaller gives signals to PME operator at a time + that alternative workers are available
 - *Provide communication equipment in case visual signalling won't be effective
- Operator must:
- *Obey all designated signaller's signals
 - *Obey all STOP signals even if person who gives them isn't a designated signaller

Other Requirements

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Signaller Required When PME operator has obstructed view (unless directed by a traffic control or warning system)

Signaller Duties Be stationed in safe position in continuous view of operator + with unobstructed view of area into which PME will move

Other Requirements

MANITOBA

Signaller Required *At a construction site where PME moves in reverse or in a way that may endanger the operator or another worker in the vicinity
*At any workplace where work is done: (i) within 3 metres of an overhead electrical line; or (ii) using equipment or machinery from a location from which it, or any of its parts, may come within 3 m of an overhead electrical line

Signaller Duties *Have a clear view of operator + intended path of travel
*Direct operator using: (i) pre-arranged visual signals; or (ii) a radio communication system, if visual signals won't be clearly visible to the operator

Other Requirements Employer must:
*Designate competent worker to serve as signal person
*Provide the required radio communication system, if visual signals won't be clearly visible to the operator

NEW BRUNSWICK

Signaller Required When PME operators are backing up + can't clearly see where they're going

Signaller Duties

Other Requirements Operator may not back up equipment until getting the go-ahead from the signaller

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Signaller Required When PME operator has obstructed view (unless directed by a traffic control or warning system)

Signaller Duties

- *Be stationed in a safe spot in continuous view of operator
- *Have an unobstructed area into which the PME will travel
- *Not be "otherwise occupied" while the PME is in motion

Other Requirements

NOVA SCOTIA

Signaller Required When PME operator:

- *Doesn't have an adequate view of the load; or
- *Doesn't have a clear view of the route; or
- *Can't see clearly around the equipment when it's moving + hasn't ensured nobody is endangered as a result; or
- *Causes the equipment to move under its own power from one location to another + the situation creates a hazard

Signaller Duties

- *Be readily identifiable to the operator
- *Use a well understood distinctive code of hand signals or another effective communication system
- *Get help from another signaller if both his/her own + the operator's view of the load or route is obstructed or partly obstructed

Other Requirements Operator may not move a load except at the signaller's signal

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES/NUNAVUT

Signaller Required When PME operator has obstructed view of the route

Signaller Duties Have a clear view of the PME's path of travel

Other Requirements Operator may not proceed until a worker gives the signal that it's safe

ONTARIO (Const. Projects)

Signaller Required When: (i) PME operator has obstructed view of the route; or (ii) the equipment or its load may endanger another person

Signaller Duties

- *Jointly establish visible signals with operator
- *Communicate via telecommunication if visual signals aren't clearly visible to operator
- *Not do other work while acting as signaller
- *Wear appropriate high-visibility safety apparel⁽¹⁾
- *Be clear of + have a clear view of intended path of travel of PME or its load
- *Be in full view of operator

Other Requirements

Employer must:

- *Appoint a competent worker to serve as signaller
- *Furnish required telecommunication system + high-visibility safety apparel

*Ensure signaller gets adequate oral training

*Ensure signaller gets adequate oral + written instructions + keep copy of the instructions at site

Operator must jointly establish visible signals with signaller + obey the signals

ONTARIO (Ind. Ests.)

Signaller Required When operator doesn't have full view of intended path of travel of PME or its load

Signaller Duties	*Be clear of + have a clear view of intended path of travel of PME or its load *Be in full view of operator
Other Requirements	Employer must appoint a competent worker to serve as signaller
Signaller Required	When PME operator's vision is obstructed
Signaller Duties	Mutually agree with operator on signals * <u>Employer must</u> designate employee to give signals
Other Requirements	* <u>Operator must</u> mutually agree with designated employee on signals + obey the signals

QUÉBEC

Signaller Required	When a self-propelled vehicle moving in reverse at a construction site would endanger the operator or a worker *Use bidirectional means of telecommunications to guide operator. <u>Exception</u> : Hand signals OK if vehicle backs up < 10 metres <u>Signallers designated site signal persons must also:</u>
Signaller Duties	*Receive specialized training ⁽²⁾ *Wear fluorescent yellow-green high-visibility safety apparel of Class 2 or 3 + Level 2 that meets CSA Z96 *Use a communication method taught to them during training *Remain visible to operators + clear of the vehicle's trajectory <u>Principal contractor of construction site must:</u> * Appoint signal person *Furnish the necessary telecommunications equipment for vehicle backup maneuvers
Other Requirements	*If the signal person serves as site signal person: i. Establish the required traffic plan for the site; ii. Furnish the required signal person training; + iii. Furnish the required high-visibility safety apparel

SASKATCHEWAN

Signaller Required	When PME operator has obstructed view of the route
Signaller Duties	Have a clear view of the PME's path of travel
Other Requirements	Operator may not proceed until a worker gives the signal that it's safe

YUKON

Signaller Required	When PME operator can't see immediately behind the machine, either directly or by use of mirrors or other device + it's not practicable for machine to have an automatic audible warning device
Signaller Duties	Be stationed in a safe position in continuous view of operator + an unobstructed view of area into which PME will move
Other Requirements	Operator may not proceed until a signaller is in place + gives the signal

Notes:

(1) In Ontario, the signaller must wear an appropriate garment covering the

upper body: i. of fluorescent blaze or international orange; and which has ii. two 5 cm-wide retroreflective + fluorescent yellow stripes with area of at least 500 cm sq on front + 570 cm sq on back; iii. front stripes centered + arranged vertically roughly 225 mm apart + in an "X" pattern in back; iv. an adjustable fit if it's a vest; and v. a side + front tear-away feature if it's a nylon vest; in addition, signallers who may be endangered during night-time hours must also wear retro-reflective silver stripes encircling each arm + leg, or equivalent side visibility-enhancing stripes with a minimum area of 50 cm sq per side

(2) In Québec, persons designated to act as site signal persons must receive training, provided by an instructor, that covers: i. the risks created by the movement of persons + self-propelled vehicles at the site; ii. the traffic rules + safety instructions in place at the site, including those provided for in the traffic plan, marking of traffic zones + instructions necessary to perform their task; iii. the required equipment such as high-visibility safety apparel + bidirectional means of telecommunications; iv. the signal person's role and responsibilities; v. the positioning of site signal persons + blind spots of self-propelled vehicles; + vi. the means of communication + code of hand signals related to backup maneuvers.