

Toolbox Talk

Banksman



What is a banksman?

A banksman is a person who assists in the safe operation of a vehicle or machine to give signals to the driver. Doing this safely relies on a set of clearly defined signals.

When do we use a banks man?

Generally a banksman will be used when a driver's view is obstructed so they cannot see to do the job safely on their own, this could be in situations such as:

- Reversing a van onto a trailer
- Manoeuvring a vehicle or machine into a confined space or close to an edge
- Tipping a large dumper who's bucket obstructs the drivers view
- Reversing a van and trailer off the worksite and onto a road
- Using an excavator to clear out a lock chamber where the driver cannot see
- Driving along a tow path were there may be members of the public and the driver struggles to see them.

Key points

- Only have one banksman signalling at onetime unless in specific circumstances
- Make sure the driver is aware of the signals you are going to use
- Stand in a safe visible place at all times
- Always wear a high visibility vest.

Where should a banksman stand?

Where they have a clear view of the job at hand

- Where the driver can see them clearly
- In a safe space away from the reach of the machine as well as from other machines.

REMEMBER:

Only use 1 banks man. It can get very confusing for the driver if you have 2 people signalling at you with conflicting views.

Occasionally you may need two bank men for 2 different tasks but make sure each person knows exactly which task they are signalling for.

A few signals...



Useful Links

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/faq-banksmen.htm>