

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 (refer to the separate Toolbox Talk for the set of 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 whose 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 towpath where there may be members of the public and the driver struggles to see them.

A few signals:

The full set of signals is given on the Toolbox Talk Banksman Signals.

Key points:

- Only have one Banksman signalling at one time 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 one Banksman. It can get very confusing for the driver if you have 2 people signalling at you with conflicting views.

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

