

**WAC 296-45-67531 Communication.** (1) Communication must be maintained between the air crew and ground personnel at all times by a designated and qualified signalperson. There must be a constant, open line of communication using radios or head and hand signals.

(2) Signal systems must be understood by the air crew and the ground crew, including signalpersons, prior to the hoisting of any load.

(3) Signaling and maintaining communications with the pilot will be exclusive to the designated signalperson during periods of loading and unloading. The signalperson must be distinguishable from other members of the ground crew by the pilot of the aircraft. This may be by way of orange-colored gloves, vest, or other apparel.

(4) The lead worker and one top person must also have an operating transmitter and receiver.

(5) Authorized and qualified employees may come within 50 feet of the helicopter when the rotor blades are turning, but no closer, other than to enter the aircraft or to hook or unhook the load or do other essential functions. Other employee(s) must not come closer than 100 feet of the aircraft when it is operating.

(6) The signals between the signalperson and the operator of the helicopter must be those submitted to the FAA for the particular job. When hand signals are to be used, the qualified worker must utilize a visually enhanced hard hat or helmet with clear markings to indicate the desired movement. Any signals other than up/down or in/out will require the use of hand signals.

(7) Should there occur a change in the hazards, method of performing the job, signals to be used, or other operating conditions during the course of any particular job, a conference must immediately be held at which time all affected employees and others (including signalpersons, ground workers, and pilots) will be advised of such hazards or change of operation. No employee will be permitted to work unless such employee and others fully understand any changes that have taken place.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060 and chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 19-13-083, § 296-45-67531, filed 6/18/19, effective 8/1/19; WSR 16-10-081, § 296-45-67531, filed 5/3/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 94-20-057 (Order 94-16), § 296-45-67531, filed 9/30/94, effective 11/20/94; Order 76-38, § 296-45-67531, filed 12/30/76.]