Truck Spotter Hand Signals

Drivers are the 'captain of the ship'! Even though they have a spotter, best practice is for them to implement **GOAL**: **Get Out and Look**.

Drivers can identify any concerns/hazards that the spotter may not be aware of and quide the spotter in monitoring those concerns/hazards during the maneuver.



Distance to Stopping Point

Face your palms
forward with your hands
above your head.
Draw your elbows
forward as you bring
your hands together.



Turns

Point one arm to indicate the direction of the turn.

Bend the active arm repeatedly towards your head to signal continued turning. Left - Right



Proceed Slowly

Face your palms in the direction of your desired travel. Bend both arms repeatedly towards your head and chest, and extend.

Backward - Forward



Stop

Cross both arms above your head.

IMPORTANT!



Spotters should always be in clearly view of the driver as they make their backing maneuver.

If there are ever any concerns or doubts as to what the spotter is signaling, the driver should stop immediately and communicate with the spotter verbally to ensure there's clear understanding.



Truck Spotter Best Practices

Having a truck spotter is a big advantage – not only for the drivers of commercial vehicles, but also for fleet managers responsible for keeping their fleets safe and losses to a minimum. If a driver has a fellow employee as a passenger (often to help with cargo loading and offloading), that employee could be used as a spotter for the driver when maneuvering around a site, backing into a spot, trying to park, making tight turns, or performing maneuvers other than driving forward. Spotters offer an additional perspective that the driver doesn't have, helping them avoid any damage or hazards. Sometimes this includes cleaning responsibilities like removing pavement debris that could impact the truck.

Spotters use specific hand signals to help guide the driver, however these signals are not always standardized. If the spotter and driver do not have the same understanding of the signals, or if the spotter doesn't know where they should be positioned, there could be the potential for an accident, including injury to the spotter.



