

AIRCRAFT MARSHALLING SIGNALS

Where possible, signals in this instruction comply with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Standardization Agreement 3117, Air Standardization Coordinating Committee Air Standard 4442A, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) signals. Where there is a conflict in guidance between USAF, FAA, ICAO, and NATO documents, the USAF generally follows ICAO guidance wherever feasible. Significant differences in signals are annotated wherever possible.

The marshaller will signal facing the aircraft while standing in one of the following positions:
 Fixed Wing Aircraft: The marshaller will stand forward of the left wingtip of the aircraft and remain in full view of the pilot.
 Helicopters: The marshaller will stand in full view of the pilot (the pilot is usually on the right side of the helicopter).

	USAF DAY	USAF NIGHT	FAA	NATO	ICAO
1. PROCEED TO NEXT MARSHALLER Right or left arm down, other arm moved across the body and extended to indicate direction of next marshaller.			None	Same	Same
2. THIS MARSHALLER Arms above head in vertical position with palms facing inward.			Same	Same	Same
3. PROCEED UNDER FURTHER GUIDANCE BY SIGNALPERSON Right hand raised vertically overhead and moved left and right. Left hand at side.	None	None	None	None	
4. MOVE AHEAD Arms a little aside, palms facing backwards and repeatedly moved upward backward from shoulder height.			Same	Same	Same
5. TURN TO THE LEFT Point right arm downward, left arm repeatedly moved upward backward. Speed of arm movement indicating rate of turn.			Same	Signals 5 and 6 are the same as a spot turn for hovering aircraft.	Same
6. TURN TO THE RIGHT Point left arm downward, right arm repeatedly moved upward backward. Speed of arm movement indicating rate of turn.			Same	Signals 5 and 6 are the same as a spot turn for hovering aircraft.	Same
7. SLOW DOWN Arms down with palms toward ground then moved up and down several times.			Same	Same	Same
8. BRAKES ON Day: Arms above head, open palms and fingers raised with palms towards aircraft, then fist closed. Night: Arms above head then wrists crossed. ICAO: Raise arm and hand with fingers extended, horizontally in front of body then clench fist.	None	None	None		
9. BRAKES OFF Day: Arms above head, fist closed facing aircraft. Then fist open. Night: Arms above head with wrists crossed then uncrossed. ICAO: Raise arm, with fist clenched, horizontally in front of body, then extend fingers.	None	None	None		
10. SLOW DOWN ENGINE(S) ON INDICATED SIDE Arms down with palms toward ground, then either right or left arm waved up and down indicating that left or right side engines respectively should be slowed down.			None	Same	Same
11. MOVE BACK Arms by sides, palms facing forward, arms swept forward and upward repeatedly to shoulder height. Do not bend arms at the elbow.			For rotary wing aircraft only.	Same	Same
12. TURN WHILE BACKING-TAIL TO THE RIGHT Point left arm down. The right arm is by the side, palm facing forward. The right arm is swept forward and upward repeatedly to shoulder height. Do not bend arm at the elbow.			None	Same as FAA	Same as FAA
13. TURN WHILE BACKING-TAIL TO THE LEFT Point right arm down. The left arm is by the side, palm facing forward. The left arm is swept forward and upward repeatedly to shoulder height. Do not bend arm at the elbow.			None	Same as FAA	Same as FAA
14. REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR PERSONNEL TO APPROACH AIRCRAFT A beckoning motion with right hand at eye level.			Same	None	None
15. PERSONNEL APPROACH THE AIRCRAFT Left hand raised vertically overhead, palm towards aircraft. The other hand indicates to personnel concerned and gestures towards aircraft.			None	Same	None
16. STOP USAF: Arms crossed above head, palms facing forward. ICAO Note: The rapidity of the arm movement should be related to the urgency of the stop, i.e. the faster the movement the quicker the stop.			None	Same as USAF	Same as USAF
17. EMERGENCY STOP Arms crossed above the head, palms facing forward. Arm repeatedly crossed above head (the rapidity of the arm movement should be related to the urgency of the stop, i.e. the faster the movement the quicker the stop).	None	None	None	None	None
18. START ENGINE(S) Circular motion of right hand at head level with left arm pointing to engine.			Same Except Number of fingers extended on left hand indicates engine to be started.	Same Except Number of fingers extended on left hand indicates engine to be started.	Same Except Number of fingers extended on left hand indicates engine to be started.

	USAF DAY	USAF NIGHT	FAA	NATO	ICAO
19. CUT ENGINE(S)/ROTOR Either arm and hand level with shoulder, hand moving across throat, palm downward.			Same	Same	Same
20. ABANDON AIRCRAFT Marshaller first gives signal to cut engines, followed by signal simulating unfastening seat belt and shoulder straps and throwing them up and off.			None	Same	None
21. AUXILIARY POWER UNIT - CONNECTED Hands above head, left fist partially clenched, right hand moved in direction of left hand with first two fingers extended and inserted into circle made by fingers of the left hand.			Same	None	None
22. AUXILIARY POWER UNIT - DISCONNECTED Hands above head, left fist partially clenched, right hand moved away from left hand, withdrawing first two fingers from circle made by fingers of the left hand.			Same	None	None
23. EXTERNAL STARTING AIR-CONNECTED Hands above head, left hand cupped, right fist fully clenched, right fist moved in direction of left hand and inserted into cup made by left hand.			Same	None	None
24. EXTERNAL STARTING AIR-DISCONNECTED Hands above head, left hand cupped, right fist moved away from left hand withdrawing fist from cup made by left hand.			Same	None	None
25. CHOCKS-INSERTED Arms down, fists closed, thumbs extended inwards, swing arms from extended position inwards.			Same	Same	Same
26. CHOCKS-REMOVED Arms down, fists closed, thumbs extended outwards, swing arm outwards.			Same	Same	Same
27. LOWER WING FLAPS OR FLAPS ARE EXTENDED Hands in front, palms together horizontally then opened from the wrist.			None	Same	None
28. RAISE WING FLAPS OR FLAPS ARE UP Hands in front, horizontally, with palms open from the wrists, then suddenly closed.			None	Same	None
29. TAIL WHEEL/NOSE WHEEL-LOCK Hands together overhead, palms open from the wrists in a vertical V, then suddenly closed.			None	Same	None
30. TAIL WHEEL NOSE WHEEL-UNLOCK Hands overhead, palms together then opened from the wrists to form a vertical V.			None	Same	None
31. AFFIRMATIVE (ALL CLEAR OR "OK") Hand raised, thumb up.			Same	Same	Same
32. NEGATIVE (NOT CLEAR) Hand raised, thumb down.			None	Same	None
33. WEAPON BAY - OPEN Body bent forward at the waist, hands held with fingertips touching in front of body and elbow bent at approximately 45 degrees, then arms swing downwards and outwards.			None	Same	None
34. WEAPON BAY - CLOSE Body bent forward at the waist and arms extended horizontally, then arms swing downward and until finger tips touch in front of the body with elbows bent at approximately 45 degrees.			None	Same	None
35. FOLD WINGS/ HELICOPTER BLADES/ SWEEP WINGS AFT Arms straight out at sides, then swept forward and hugged around shoulders.			Same	None	None
36. SPREAD WINGS/ HELICOPTER BLADES/ SWEEP WINGS FORWARD Arms hugged around shoulders, then sweep straight out to the sides.			None	Same	None

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37. LOCK WINGS/HELICOPTER BLADES Hit right elbow with palm of left hand.			None	None	None
38. UP TAIL HOOK Right fist, thumb extended upward, raised suddenly to meet horizontal palm of left hand.			None	Same	None
39. DOWN TAIL HOOK Right fist, thumb extended downward, forced suddenly to meet horizontal palm of left hand.			None	Same	None
40. OPEN AIR/SPEED BRAKES OR AIR/SPEED BRAKES ARE OPEN Hands in front, palms together vertically, then opened from the wrists.			None	Same	None
41. CLOSE AIR/SPEED BRAKES OR AIR/SPEED BRAKES ARE CLOSED Hands in front, vertically with palms open from the wrists, then suddenly closed.			None	Same	None
42. DOWN LOCKS/LANDING GEAR PINS INSTALLED With arms above head, the right-hand claps left forearm. NATO: Left arm bent vertically in front with fist clenched, right arm bent horizontally in front with fist clenched and held motionless at left elbow.			None	Same	None
43. DOWN LOCKS/LANDING GEAR PINS REMOVED With arms and hands clasped as in "INSTALLED" position, the right hand unclaps the left forearm. NATO: Left arm bent vertically in front with fist clenched, right arm bent horizontally in front with fist clenched and held motionless at left elbow. Right fist moves horizontally away from left elbow.			None	Same	None
44. ENGAGE NOSE GEAR STEERING Point to nose with index finger while indicating direction of turn with other index finger.			None	Same	None
45. DISENGAGE NOSE GEAR STEERING Point to nose with index finger, lateral wave with open palm of other hand at shoulder height.			None	Same	None
46. FIRE IN THE ENGINE OR APU Make rapid horizontal figure-eight motion at waist level with either arm, pointing at source of fire with the other.			None	Same	None
47. HOT BRAKES Arms extended with forearm perpendicular to ground. Palms facing body.			None	Same	None
48. HOT BRAKES - LEFT SIDE Arms extended with forearm perpendicular to ground. Gesture indicates left side.			None	None	None
49. HOT BRAKES - RIGHT SIDE Arms extended with forearm perpendicular to ground. Gesture indicates right side.			None	None	None
50. FEATHER/FUEL SHUT OFF (PROPELLER AIRCRAFT ONLY) Make a chopping motion with one hand slicing into the flat and open palm of the other hand. Number of fingers extended on right hand indicates affected engine.			None	None	None
51. TAKE OFF THIS WAY (at pilot's discretion) Marshaller conceals left hand and makes circular motion of right hand over head in horizontal plane ending in a throwing motion of arm towards direction of takeoff. Note: For USAF, this is a rotary wing signal only. Note: For USAF, this is a rotary wing signal only. Note: For NATO, this is a fixed wing signal only.			None	None	None
52. VENTILATION Circular motion of right hand in horizontal plane, fist clenched, index finger stretched down, right arm extended, with forearm perpendicular to the ground.			None	None	None
53. TELEBRIF Make a "T" signal with hands at head level.			None	None	None
54. LASHINGS ON/OFF With arms horizontal, hands make a circular motion in front of body.			None	None	None

	USAF DAY	USAF NIGHT	FAA	NATO	ICAO
55. TAKEOFF Arms extended horizontally sideways beckoning upwards.	None	None	None		None
56. CLEAR TAKEOFF Both arms extended on same side above shoulder level in direction clear to fly off.	None	None	None		None
57. LANDING DIRECTION Marshaller turns and faces toward point where aircraft is to land; the arms are lowered repeatedly from a vertical position to a horizontal position, stopping finally in the horizontal position.			Same	Same	None
58. STOP ROTOR Arms extended horizontally sideways, palms facing forward, and then crossed across the chest so hands touch shoulders.	None	None	None	None	None
59. STOP Arms extended vertically overhead, palms facing outwards.	None	None	None	None	None
60. VERTICAL MOVEMENT-MOVE UPWARD Arms extended horizontally sideways beckoning upwards with palms turned up. Speed of movement indicates rate of ascent.			Same	Same	Same
61. VERTICAL MOVEMENT-MOVE DOWNWARD Arms extended horizontally sideways beckoning downwards with palms turned down. Speed of movement indicates rate of descent.			Same	Same	Same
62. HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT-MOVE TO THE RIGHT Left arm extended horizontally sideways in direction of movement and other arm swung over the head in same direction, in a repeating movement.			Same Except Signal shows arm movement in front of chest parallel to ground.	Same	Same Except Signal shows arm movement in front of chest parallel to ground.
63. HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT-MOVE TO THE LEFT Left arm extended horizontally sideways in direction of movement and other arm swung over the head in the same direction, in a repeating movement.			Same Except Signal shows arm movement in front of chest parallel to ground.	Same	Same Except Signal shows arm movement in front of chest parallel to ground.
64. SWING TAIL TO RIGHT Right arm swings over chest perpendicular to ground. At the same time the right arm swings behind the back perpendicular to the ground. Elbows remain locked.	None	None	None	None	None
65. SWING TAIL TO LEFT Left arm swings over chest perpendicular to ground. At the same time the right arm swings behind the back perpendicular to the ground. Elbows remain locked.	None	None	None	None	None
66. MOVE BACK Arms by sides, palms facing forward, arms swept downward repeatedly from shoulder height.	None	None	None	None	None
67. MOVE FORWARD Arms a little aside, palms facing backwards and repeatedly moved upward backward to shoulder height.	None	None	None	None	None
68. LOWER WHEELS When aircraft approaches with landing gear retracted. Marshaller gives signal by side view of a cranking circular motion of the hands.			None	Same	None
69. WAVE OFF Hands make a rope climbing motion.			None	Same	None
70. RELEASE LOAD Bend elbow across chest, palm downward. Extend arm outward to horizontal position, keeping palm open and facing down.			None	Same	None
71. LOAD HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED Bend left arm horizontally across chest, with fist clenched, palm downward; open right hand pointing up vertically to center of left fist.			None	None	None
72. DOWN CARGO HOOK Right fist, thumb extended downward, repeatedly raised and lowered to meet palm of left hand.			None	None	None

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73. UP CARGO HOOK Right fist, thumb extended upward, repeatedly raised and lowered to meet palm of left hand.			None	None	None
74. HOVER Arms extended horizontally, palms downward.			None	Same	Same
75. SPOT TURN Left or right hand moving upward and backward, from a horizontal position, to indicate direction of tail movement. Other hand pointing to center of spot turns. Marshaller must remain in full eye-view with pilot.			None	Same	None
76. LAND Arms crossed and extended downwards in front of the body.			None	Same	Same
77. WINCH-UP Left arm horizontal in front of body, fist clenched, right hand with palm turned upwards making upward motion.			None	Same	None
78. WINCH-DOWN Left arm horizontal in front of body, fist clenched, right hand with palm turned downwards making downward motion.			None	Same	None
79. DROOP STOPS OUT Hand above head level, thumbs pointing out.			None	Same	None
80. DROOP STOPS IN Hand above head level, thumbs pointing in.			None	Same	None
81. REMOVE BLADE TIE-DOWNS Left hand above head, right hand pointing to individual booms for removal.			None	Same	None
82. WHEELS OR SLING LOAD THIS HIGH Hands extended before body and palms facing each other. The bottom hand indicates the ground and the top hand the wheels or bottom of sling load. The distance between the hands will indicate the height of the wheel or bottom of sling load above the ground.			None	None	None
83. CARGO LOAD SECURE Arms extended forward, elbows flexed, right hand grasping left fist.			None	None	None
84. TROUBLE WITH LOAD Bend left arm horizontally across chest with fist clenched, palm downwards; open right hand pointed up vertically to center of left fist.	None	None	None		None
85. TAKE OFF THIS WAY (at pilot's discretion) Marshaller conceals left hand and makes circular motion of right hand over head in horizontal plane ending in a throwing motion of arm towards direction of takeoff. NATO: For fixed wing aircraft only.			Same	Note: Used for fixed wing aircraft only.	None
86. ENGAGE ROTOR (S) Circular motion in horizontal plane with right hand above head.			Same	Same	None
87. HOOK UP LOAD Hands make a rope climbing motion.			None	Same	None
88. SPREAD PYLON Extend right arm horizontally, palm downward. Bend arm outward to horizontal position, keeping palm open and facing down.			None	Same	None
89. FOLD PYLON Extend right arm horizontally, palm downward. Bend arm across chest, keeping palm down.			None	Same	None
90. CUT CABLE A signal similar to "Release Load" except that the right hand has the palm facing downwards. Rapid repetition of right hand movement indicates urgency.			None	Same	None