CERTIFICATION SCHEME - SIGNALMAN

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1. Introduction

ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY is a professionally accredited and internationally oriented training, inspection, and personnel certification organization delivering Health, Safety, Environmental (HSE), technical, and operator competency certification services. Established to support industry compliance and workforce competence, the organization operates across the Middle East and international markets, providing certification services aligned with global best practices and regulatory requirements.

The organization's mission is to enhance workplace safety and operational excellence by certifying competent professionals through structured assessment processes that comply with **ISO/IEC 17024:2012**. ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY ensures that all certification activities are conducted by qualified personnel using fair, transparent, and impartial procedures.

The Signalman Certification Scheme is designed to evaluate and certify individuals who demonstrate the required knowledge, skills, and competence to give standardized hand signals and voice commands for lifting operations safely and effectively in accordance with applicable standards, site procedures, and industry safety practices.

2. Company Policy

ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY is committed to achieving customer satisfaction, safety assurance, and regulatory compliance through the effective implementation and continual improvement of its **ISO/IEC 17024:2012–compliant management system**.

Top management commits to:

- Delivering certification services in a timely and professional manner
- Ensuring transparent, accurate, and unbiased communication
- Maintaining impartiality and confidentiality at organizational and individual levels
- Continually improving personnel competence through training and development
- Complying with applicable international standards, legal obligations, and local regulatory requirements

ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY retains full authority and responsibility for all certification decisions, including granting, maintaining, renewing, extending, reducing, suspending, or withdrawing certification.

3. Commitment to Impartiality

Top Management of ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY is fully committed to safeguarding impartiality in all certification activities. The organization ensures that:

- Certification policies and procedures are applied objectively and consistently
- Conflicts of interest are identified, evaluated, and managed effectively
- No financial, commercial, or operational pressures compromise objectivity
- Certification activities remain independent from training delivery and commercial influence

4. Disciplinary Policy

The Certification Scheme Committee enforces ethical conduct and disciplinary requirements. Certification may be suspended or withdrawn under the following conditions:

- Expiry of certification without renewal
- Submission of falsified or misleading documentation
- Violation of the Substance Abuse Policy
- Involvement in a serious accident during the certification validity period
- Failure to comply with occupational medical fitness requirements
- Breach of the Code of Ethics

5. Eligibility and Occupational Health Evaluation

5.1 Eligibility Criteria

Applicants shall:

- Be a minimum of 18 years of age
- Hold a valid occupational health card issued by a competent authority
- Possess a valid driving license where specifically required by the applicable authority or client requirement
- Agree to comply with the Code of Ethics and Substance Abuse Policy
- Achieve a minimum score of **80%** in written examinations
- Achieve a minimum score of **75%** in the practical assessment

5.2 Health Evaluation

Candidates are responsible for maintaining valid occupational health certification throughout the certification period. ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY verifies that the candidate is physically and mentally capable of performing signaling duties safely at the time of assessment but does not conduct medical examinations.

6. Candidate Rights and Responsibilities

6.1 Candidate Rights

Certified candidates are entitled to:

- Receive an official certificate and identification card upon successful certification
- Request examination rescheduling with a minimum of two days' notice
- Expect confidentiality of personal information unless disclosure is legally required
- Submit complaints and appeals through formal communication channels
- Request reasonable accommodations for special needs

6.2 Candidate Responsibilities

Candidates shall:

- Provide accurate, complete, and verifiable information
- Comply with all certification rules and assessment requirements
- Maintain integrity and ethical conduct during examinations
- Use certification credentials appropriately and truthfully
- Refrain from misleading claims related to certification status
- Return certificates and ID cards upon suspension or withdrawal
- Declare any conflict of interest involving examiners prior to assessment

7. Certification Scope

This certification scheme evaluates the competence of individuals to perform Signalman duties safely and effectively during lifting operations in industrial and construction environments.

8. Job and Task Description

Certified Signalmen are responsible for communicating with crane and lifting equipment operators using recognized hand signals and voice/radio communication to guide lifting movements safely, maintain situational awareness, and stop operations when unsafe conditions are identified.

9. Required Competence

Applicants shall have relevant knowledge, training and/or practical experience in signaling for lifting operations sufficient to demonstrate the competencies defined by this certification scheme.

10. Candidate Abilities

Candidates must demonstrate physical and mental fitness appropriate for signaling duties, including the ability to observe lifting operations, communicate clearly, recognize hazards, and continuously meet occupational health requirements.

11. Prerequisites

Candidates must present valid identification documents at the time of examination.

12. Code of Conduct

12.1 Code of Ethics

Certified Signalmen shall:

- Avoid discrimination and bias
- Prioritize the safety of personnel, equipment, environment, and public
- Comply with safety laws, procedures, and operational instructions
- Represent qualifications and certification status accurately
- Surrender certification credentials upon official request

12.2 Substance Abuse Policy

Signalmen shall not use alcohol, narcotics, or substances that impair judgment, communication, coordination, or safe performance. Prescribed medications are permitted only when medically approved and when they do not adversely affect the ability to perform signaling activities safely.

13. Certification Requirements – Signalman

13.1 Initial Certification and Recertification

13.1.1 Application Requirements

Applicants shall submit:

- Completed application form
- Passport, visa, and labor card copies
- Driving license (only where specifically applicable)
- Recent color photograph
- Evidence of training and experience
- Employer declaration (if company-sponsored)

13.1.2 Recertification

Candidates are notified two months prior to expiry and must:

- Submit a renewal application
- Pass the required recertification Written/Oral and Practical examinations before certification expiry.
- Comply with health, ethical, and substance policies
- Complete any additional assessment required where the certification scope is extended

13.2 Assessment Methods

Certification assessments include:

Written Examination

- Written/Oral Examination: 30 multiple-choice questions. PHSD-DM Signalperson blueprint: Hand Signals 30% (9 questions); Voice Communication 15% (4–5 questions); Basic Knowledge of Crane Operations 25% (7–8 questions); Situational Awareness / Site-Specific Considerations 15% (4–5 questions); Safety Standards and Regulations 15% (4–5 questions).
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- Duration: 60 minutes
- Pass Mark: 80%

Practical Examination

- Conducted at the client site or an approved facility using suitable lifting equipment or an approved practical assessment arrangement
- There is no fixed time limit for the Signalman practical examination; candidates will typically complete the two scenarios in approximately 15 minutes.
- Pass Mark: 75%
- The practical examination consists of two scenarios: (1) Match Scenario, where the candidate observes lifting equipment functions and gives the necessary hand or voice signal(s); and (2) Candidate-Initiated Scenario, where the candidate gives the necessary hand or voice signals to initiate and direct lifting equipment movement based on the examiner-assigned task. All signals shall follow current standard signals. Voice communication shall be continuous where used. The assessment also covers crane dynamics/operations, situational awareness, hazard recognition, and emergency/stop signals. The examination area shall be dedicated to examination activities and shall not be integrated with an actual ongoing job or lifting task.

13.3 Examination Combination

- Written and practical examinations may be conducted in either order
- Candidates must pass both the Written/Oral and Practical examinations. Candidates have one month after passing the first examination component to pass the corresponding examination component.

13.4 Certification Decision

- Examiners submit sealed assessment results
- Certification team verifies compliance with all requirements
- Certification is granted only upon successful completion and fee clearance

13.5 Certificate and ID Card

Certificates include:

- Candidate name and photograph
- Unique certification number
- Certification category: Signalman
- Issue and expiry dates