

## SECTION 715

### FLAGPERSON OPERATIONS

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#### **715.01 SCOPE**

Under certain conditions, during construction activities on or along a roadway, the use of a flagperson may be required to safely guide motorists through the work site area. The following sections specify the appropriate equipment, signs, and usage of flagpersons under such circumstances. The final decision as to the use of flagpersons shall be as directed by the Owner's Representative. The use of Automatic Flagger Assistance Devices, as detailed in Section 708, may be used as an alternative to flagpersons allowing for the greater safety in some situations.

#### **715.02 FLAGPERSON EQUIPMENT**

The flagperson shall, at a minimum, wear CSA approved high visibility safety jacket or vest, safety boots, safety headgear, and hearing and eye protection. They shall be equipped with a flagpersons "STOP" and "SLOW" reflectorized sign. This sign shall be attached to a support pole, such that the sign and pole combination has an overall height of 2.0 to 2.3 metres. For night operation, the flagperson shall have a red signaling baton flashlight to supplement the reflective diamond sign.

#### **715.03 FLAGPERSON ADVANCE SIGN**

Except for very short-term work situations, "Flagperson Ahead" (TC-21) signs shall be posted in advance of each flagperson. The sign shall be of a design as shown in the Manual of Uniformed Traffic Control Devices for Canada and shall be retro-reflectorized

with high intensity prismatic grade sheeting to indicate the same color and shape by night as by day.

All advance flagperson signage shall be removed or covered promptly when the flagging operations are terminated from a construction work zone for any period of time. Signage left up will be expropriated by the Department.

#### **715.04 GENERAL GUIDELINES**

Flagpersons shall be highly visible. For this reason, they must stand alone, never permitting a group of workers to congregate around them.

Flagpersons working as a team shall agree to appropriate signals before commencing their duties. If the flagpersons are not visible to one another, an intermediate flagperson or two-way radios are necessary to ensure proper communications and directing of traffic. See Layout 757-1 and 757-2 of the Traffic Control Manual for details.

No flagperson shall start working unless all required advance flagperson signs are in place. No other construction signs shall be located between the flagperson position and the advance flagperson signage.

While on duty, the flagperson should refrain from participating in distracting activities. The flagperson is not permitted to use any audio or video devices, earphones or any other device that could impair sight, hearing, or attention while working. Flagpersons are not be permitted to use any cellular devices during hours of operation unless it is deemed an emergency. Any flagperson observed using any device that distracts from their work will be asked to leave site immediately. The Department will not accept any claims resulting from work delays for the dismissal of any flagpersons who fail to abide by this requirement. The Contractor is strongly advised to enforce this item promoting site safety.

The Contractor is advised that flagpersons shall be equipped with either 2-way or 3-way radios only. At no time are flagpersons permitted to use flags to control traffic.

No flagperson shall leave his or her post unless authorized to do so or replaced by another flag person. As long as traffic cannot flow freely, even at mealtime, the flagperson must stay on duty until relieved.

Flagpersons are to be located outside the active lane of traffic, typically on the shoulder adjacent to the lane of traffic being controlled, and at a point from the end of the working area to be able to protect personnel and equipment. The distance from the flagperson to

the work site shall be based on normal speed limit and as indicated in the Construction Distance Table 799-1 in the Traffic Control Manual.

During some situations, it may be necessary for a Flagperson to stand on the driver's side of the lane of traffic being controlled. This position is only allowed after more than one vehicle has been stopped from the shoulder of the lane of traffic being controlled and it is necessary for the Flagperson to move into the lane to assess queue length or to achieve a better view of approaching vehicles. The Flagperson must then return to the shoulder of the lane before directing the traffic to proceed. At no point are Flagpersons to be positioned on the driver's side of the lane if the Flagperson will be exposed to traffic in the adjoining lane, as the presence of traffic will result in that position not being safe

Flagpersons and equipment operators working at a location are to make every effort to keep delays to motorists to a minimum. In heavy traffic, delays shall be split equally between the opposing lanes of traffic and in normal operations, traffic shall not be delayed in excess of five (5) minutes per direction. At all times priority shall be given to the motorist to proceed through the construction zone. Flagpersons not following these guidelines shall be dismissed from the work site.

When the flagperson leaves their position at the end of operation on a work zone, the Contractor must remove or cover all applicable advance flagperson signage. The Department reserves the right to expropriate all flagperson signs that are left in place after the flagperson no longer controls traffic.

## **715.05 FLAGPERSON REQUIREMENTS**

Any construction activity that results in encroachment into a travel lane requires traffic control, usually in the form of flagpersons. The following construction situations shall be used as guidelines in use of flagpersons:

- At least one flagperson shall be provided on local roads when the traffic flow in one direction is diverted wholly or partially into the lane of oncoming traffic and the lane of oncoming traffic is clearly visible beyond the one lane section for the distance as shown in Table 715.05.01 for the appropriate speed limit.
- At least two flagpersons shall be provided on local roads when the traffic flow in one direction is diverted wholly or partially into the lane of oncoming traffic and the lane of oncoming traffic is not clearly visible beyond the one lane section as noted in Table 715.05.01.

**TABLE 715.05.01**

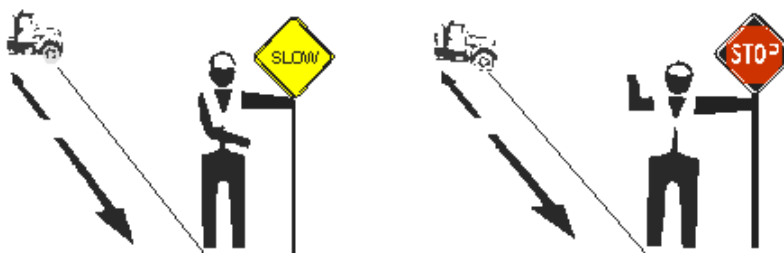
Max Speed	Clear Visibility Required in Each Direction
80 km/h	250 m
70 km/h	200 m
60 km/h	170 m
50 km/h	140 m
40 km/h	110 m

- The Contractor may, where the normal traffic volume on a local road is less than 15 vehicles per hour, reduce the flagpersons requirements.
- At least two flagpersons shall be provided on collector and arterial roads when the work activities require the traffic flow in one direction to be diverted either wholly or partially into the lane of oncoming traffic.
- At least two flagpersons shall be provided when the traffic flow in both directions is diverted from the normal vehicle path onto a one-lane section. Where traffic flow in both directions is diverted from the normal vehicle path onto a two-lane section, the use of a flagperson is not required. Traffic flow may be safely regulated through the area by the proper use of construction signs.
- At least two flagpersons shall be provided to direct traffic at a major detour. These flagpersons must be located at each end of the detour and must be familiar with the area of the detour route. Additional flagpersons must be provided at all significant road intersections (with the exception of local roads). Extended operations of a detour will require public advertising and detour signs along the complete detour route in place of the flagpersons.
- At least two flagpersons shall be provided at truck entrances/exits on arterial roads when the truck traffic entering or exiting the access road is in excess of ten vehicles per hour.
- At least two flagpersons shall be provided at truck entrances/exits on collector and local roads with a normal traffic volume of 50 vehicles per hour on the through road and when the truck traffic entering and exiting the access road is in excess of 10 vehicles per hour.
- At least three flagpersons shall be provided, as shown in the Traffic Control Manual (Sign Layout Diagrams 757-1 and 757-2), on collector and arterial roads when the work activities require that traffic flow in one direction be diverted either wholly or partially into the lane of oncoming traffic and when the horizontal and/or vertical alignment at the work site does not have the distance of clear visibility required in Table 715.05.01.

- At least one flagperson shall be provided on arterial roads that have two lanes of one-way traffic and traffic volumes in excess of 100 vehicles per hour where the work activities require that one lane be closed at the work site.
- The use of a flagperson is not required on sections of new highway that are not open to the public use.
- At least one flagperson shall be provided on a temporary bridge bypass of one lane width. At locations where portable traffic lights are in operation, the use of a flagperson is not required. At a two-lane by-pass, the use of a flagperson is not required as traffic flow may be safely regulated through the area by the proper use of construction signs.
- When traffic control is required at signalized intersections, due diligence shall be exercised and every effort made by the Contractor to deactivate the traffic lights, immediately before flagpersons are required to direct traffic through the intersection. If in the event that traffic control is required through a signalized intersection, and time restraints or emergency situations exist, such that the traffic lights cannot be deactivated immediately prior to work commencing through the intersection, then the flagpersons shall exercise caution and good judgment to ensure the traffic flow around the work zone is maintained in conjunction with the operation of the traffic light sequences. A minimum of two flagpersons shall be used at a signalized intersection. However, there may be situations, depending on the location and type of work, that require more flagpersons to be utilized.
- Any other situation as determined by the Owner's Representative.

## 715.06 WHERE TO STAND

1. Stand outside the lane of traffic, typically to the shoulder of the lane being controlled.
2. Stand at a distance from the working area as indicated on the sign layout diagram, so as to be able to protect personnel, equipment and motorists.
3. Stand where you can be seen by approaching traffic.



The guidelines above pertain to the location of the flagperson at the beginning and end of the work zone, these conditions do not apply to intermediary flagpersons which may be required on a construction project due to local roadway conditions or hazards.

## **715.07 FLAGGING SIGNALS**

Standard flagging signals shall be used and given in a clear and precise manner.

- To instruct a fellow flagperson to halt traffic, raise the free hand with fist clenched straight above the shoulder, wave the entire arm slowly from the upright position to a position directly out to the side at shoulder height and repeat signal as long as necessary;
- To indicate an all clear situation and instruct a fellow flagperson that he or she may allow traffic to proceed, raise the free hand directly out to the side at shoulder height, lower the entire arm until it rests against the side of the body and repeat signal as long as necessary;
- To indicate the approach of emergency vehicles, drop the stop and slow paddle, raise both arms to the side at shoulder height, then rapidly wave both arms from the shoulder level to a point above the head where the wrists will cross and continue signal until the fellow flagperson is seen to take necessary action;

A flagperson shall stand in a safe position where he or she will be clearly visible and where he or she has an unobstructed view of approaching traffic.

Flagpersons shall use normal signals when stationed on the driver's (left) side of the lane used by traffic under their control and appropriate signals shall be used only when the flag person is stationed on the right side of traffic under their control.

### **Normal signals to STOP traffic are:**

#### **In daylight,**

- The flagperson shall face approaching traffic and shall extend their free arm horizontally across the approach lane,
- The flagperson's paddle shall be held upright with the "STOP" side facing traffic,
- When an approaching vehicle has almost stopped, the free arm shall be used to indicate the point at which vehicles are required to stop.

#### **In darkness,**

- The flagperson shall assume the same basic position as for the day signal.
- They shall hold a reflectorized paddle in their free hand and flashlight with red signaling baton attached in their other free hand,

- The free arm shall be moved slowly back and forth between limits corresponding to the third and sixth hour positions on a clock face, and
- When an approaching vehicle has almost stopped, the flashlight and baton shall be used to indicate the point at which the vehicle is required to stop.

**Normal signals to SLOW traffic are:**

**In daylight,**

- The flagperson shall take up a position similar to the one used for the signal to stop with the "SLOW" side of the paddle facing approaching traffic

**In darkness,**

- The same position and motions shall be assumed as for the night stopping signal except that the "SLOW" side of a reflectorized paddle shall face approaching traffic

**Normal signals to MOVE traffic are:**

**In daylight,**

- The flagperson shall face across the approaching traffic lane and shall look across their shoulder at the traffic he or she is about to move
- Traffic shall be advanced by rotating the lower free arm in an oval manner corresponding to the direction in which the vehicle wheels will rotate
- If traffic is required to proceed slowly, the flagperson shall also extend their free arm horizontally towards the approach lane with the "SLOW" side of the paddle facing traffic; and
- If traffic is allowed to proceed at the prevailing speed limit, the flagperson shall lower the STOP/SLOW Paddle and ensure it is hidden from motorists.

**In darkness,**

- The same signals as for daytime shall apply.
- A flashlight with red baton attached shall be used in the free hand.
- The order to proceed or to proceed slowly may be given verbally.
- The flagpersons paddle shall not be used to wave traffic on and shall never be displayed to traffic in other than a static manner.
- All motions of the flagpersons arms, both by day and night, shall be performed precisely and unhurriedly so that the meaning of signals given cannot be misunderstood.

**715.08 BASIS OF PAYMENT**

Refer to "Wages of Flagperson", Section 125.