

Flagger Equipment

HAND-SIGNALING DEVICES (2003 MUTCD, Section 6E.03)

The STOP/SLOW paddle should be the primary and preferred hand-signaling device because the

STOP/SLOW paddle gives road users more positive guidance than red flags. Use of flags should be limited to emergency situations.

The STOP/SLOW paddle shall have an octagonal shape on a rigid handle.

STOP/SLOW paddles shall be at least 450 mm (18 in) wide with letters at least 150 mm (6 in) high and should be fabricated from light semi rigid material. The background of the STOP face shall be red with white letters and border. The background of the SLOW face shall be orange with black letters and border. When used at night, the STOP/SLOW paddle shall be retroreflectorized.

As an option, the STOP/SLOW paddle may be modified to improve conspicuity by incorporating either white or red flashing lights on the STOP face, and either white or yellow flashing lights on the SLOW face. The flashing lights may be arranged in several patterns as noted in the MUTCD.

Flags, when used, shall be a minimum of 600 mm (24 in) square, made of a good grade of red material, and securely fastened to a staff that is approximately 900 mm (36 in) in length. The free edge of a flag should be weighted so the flag will hang vertically, even in heavy winds. When used at nighttime, flags shall be retroreflectorized red.

Source: FHWA's 2003 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)