

Maintenance Memorandum

Date: May 7, 1982

Subject: Movable Bridges - Signaling

Coast Guard regulations dated January 8, 1992, regarding signaling at movable bridges summarized as follows:

1. SOUND SIGNALS - SOUND SIGNALS SHALL BE THE PRIMARY SIGNAL TO BE USED IF WEATHER CONDITIONS WILL PERMIT SOUND SIGNALS TO BE HEARD.

The bridge operators, bridge maintenance superintendents and statewide bridge electrician should all monitor the condition of our signal horns and report any malfunctions immediately. Our bridge superintendents will be delivering backup portable air horns to be used for emergencies when the horn may be malfunctioning. These portable horns will be top quality, audible up to one mile away.

2. VISUAL SIGNALS - THESE SIGNALS MAY BE USED IF CONDITIONS PREVENT SOUND SIGNALS FROM BEING HEARD.

Visual signals are covered in some detail in the regulations.

WHEN THE BRIDGE CANNOT OPEN PROMPTLY OR MUST BE CLOSED PROMPTLY, A RED FLAG OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO BE READILY VISIBLE FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE-HALF MILE OR A RED LIGHT WITH SUFFICIENT INTENSITY TO BE READILY VISIBLE AT NIGHT FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE-HALF MILE WILL BE SWUNG BACK-AND-FORTH HORIZONTALLY IN FULL SIGHT OF THE VESSEL.

Each bridge should obtain a red flag of this sufficient size. We are working with T&R to develop a specification for a hand held portable light of sufficient candle power to be used with a red lens. Flags and lights are to be used as emergency backup only when the sound system does not work.

Some of our movable bridges have portable battery operated bull horns for emergency communication with boats, traffic and/or pedestrians. If you feel these horns are malfunctioning, or are in poor condition, and a new unit is required, request one via telephone. Here again, we will attempt to specify and obtain a high quality, durable model that will last for many years.

Donald E. Orne
Engineer of Maintenance
(Signature on file)