Camera Prep Checklist

DIGITAL EDITION (LONG FORM)

Version 4.0

PRODUCTION TITLE:	
VENDOR/SUPPLIER DETAILS:	
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:	
FOCUS PULLER:	

	GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING	
1st AC	Check equipment list from Rental House against the DOP's list - flag any discrepencies	
1st AC	Confirm all equipment has arrived, and arrival time of equipment that is not there	
2nd AC	Log all equipment into an Equipment Log, including Serial Numbers, damages, etc	
2nd AC	Photograph all boxes with their contents and condition	
2nd AC	Collect Camera Consumables. Confirm the order is correct	

	LENSES	
1st AC	Do all lenses have the correct mounts for the camera? Are adapters required?	
1st AC	Ensure all lenses secure onto the camera mount and that the gears move smoothly	
1st AC	Check all lenses on a projector - are the distance markings correct? Do they need shimming?	
1st AC	Do the lens circles cover the shooting format? (Check vignetting on wider lenses)	
1st AC	Does the zoom track smoothly through out the lens?	
1st AC	Does the pentafinder have the correct aspect ratio ground glass markings? Is it clean and dust-free?	
1st AC	Does the pentafinder have the correct lens mount? Is an adapter required?	
1st AC	Does a lens secure to the front of the pentafinder securely?	
2nd AC	Do long lenses/zoom lenses have the correct size rods, base plates and lens supports?	
2nd AC	Check front and rear elements are clear of scratches. Note cosmetic scratches and alert the rental house	
2nd AC	Create weatherproof lens cheat sheets - stick to the camera, pentafinder, LCS, notepad, etc.	

	CAMERA BODY	
st AC	BASE PLATES - do they secure/lock properly? Are the carry handle and installed plates secure?	
st AC	BASE PLATES - do you have the correct mounts? Do you need additional plates for specific builds?	
st AC	LENS MOUNT - is the camera the correct mount for all lenses? Is an adapter required?	
st AC	LENS MOUNT - does the LDS work correctly? Does the mount lock securely?	
t AC	LENS MOUNT - check the flange depth/back focus of the camera. Does is need shimming?	
st AC	SENSOR - is it clean and dust-free? Are there any dead pixels?	
st AC	BODY - is there any consmetic damage? Does it power up without errors? Do the fans run properly?	
st AC	BODY - do all Record/REC buttons work properly?	
st AC	FIRMWARE - does the camera have the most up-to-date firmware installed?	
st AC	LICENCES - are the correct licences installed that are required for the job? (e.g. Anamorphic, High Speed, RAW)	
st AC	BTL FILTERS - do all the internal filters move properly? Are they clean?	
st AC	PORTS - do all SDI video ports work properly? Do all power ports work properly?	
st AC	TIMECODE - does the TC port work properly? Does the camera hold Timecode without drift?	
st AC	LENS RODS - do you have the correct length 15mm/19mm rods for the lenses?	
st AC	EVF - does the EVF bracket adjust and hold securely? Does the VEB extension hold securely?	
st AC	EVF - is the EVF clear of scratches and clean?	
st AC	EVF - adjust the dioptre to the operator's eye and mark the position	
st AC	EVF - is there an VEB (Viewfinder Extension Bracket) and eyepiece leveller included? Does it fit securely?	

	CAMERA SETTINGS	
1st AC	Confirm the Shooting Settins with the DOP & DIT (base FPS, Shutter, Resolution, etc) and load into camera	
1st AC	Assign a Camera ID and label the cameras accordingly	
1st AC	Assign User Buttons and label their functions on the side of the camera	
1st AC	Build frame lines for the chosen aspect ratio, tailored to the DOP/Operator's preferences	
1st AC	Confirm that the Sensor settings have not been altered and are correct for the job	
1st AC	Set an appropraite Voltage Warning in the Power settings	
1st AC	Enter the production metadata into the camera	
1st AC	Does the camera enter High Speed mode without any errors? What is the highest framerate of the camera?	
1st AC	Does the camera correctly squeeze/desqueeze images?	
2nd AC	Log the base shooting settings in the camera sheets tin	
•		•

	MEDIA	
1st AC	Do you have the correct card type(s) for the camera?	
2nd AC / DIT	Do you have enough cards, and the correct size cards for the job?	
1st AC / DIT	Do all cards function properly? (Load, record, run in base FPS, run in High Speed, playback, format)	
2nd AC	Label each card with a drywipe area and magazine serial number	
2nd AC	Collate the cards into a central media box and ensure they fit without too much moving around	
DIT	Does the camera kit come with the correct card reader(s) and cable(s)?	
1st AC / DIT	Shoot a test and download the footage. Confirm the correct settings and metadata is installed.	

	POWER	
2nd AC	Do you have the correct batteries for the mounts on the camera and monitors?	
2nd AC	Do you have enough batteries and power cables for all equipment for the job requirements?	
2nd AC	Do you have enough chargers for all batteries?	
2nd AC	Check each battery with a volt meter. Do they all read the correct voltage? Is the pin polarity correct?	
Trainee	Do all the batteries charge and discharge properly?	
Trainee	Label all batteries with "# xx of xx"	
Trainee	Set up a charging station on the Camera Truck	
Trainee	Create battery storage boxes/bags for charged and dead batteries	

	FOCUS ACCESSORIES	
1st AC	Does the manual follow focus move the lenses smoothly? Does it have minimal "play"?	
2nd AC	Does the manual follow focus come with the correct size accessories & gears?	
1st AC	Does the wireless follow foucs work without fault, and at distance? Set an appropriate wireless channel	
1st AC	Do the follow focuses come with the correct pitch/width gears for the lenses you have?	
1st AC	Does the Remote Start (RS) function properly on the wireless follow focus?	
1st AC	Mark up wireless follow focus rings for each lens, or input the lens data for pre-marked rings	
2nd AC	Tidy all follow focus accessories into relevant pouches, bags or boxes so they are safe to travel	
1st AC	Does the microforce/zoom control work correctly? (Power, calibrate, run smoothly at all speeds, no drift)	

	CAMERA ELECTRONIC ACCESSORIES		
1st AC	Does the Cinetape/CineRT function properly?		
1st AC	Do you have the correct interface cables for Cinetape/CineRT readout on the wireless follow focus?		
1st AC	Does the L-CUBE power and work correctly? Ensure you have spare cables		
Trainee	Perform a factory reset on the Teradek systems and pair the correct TX and RX modules		
Trainee	Check the country wireless settings and legal frequencies of the Teradek		
Trainee	Does the Teradek work properly at distance without breakup?		
2nd AC/Traine	Do you have the correct mounts and cables for the Teradek modules?		

	MATTE BOXES	
1st AC/2nd AC	Do you have the correct size matte boxes for the camera and lenses?	
2nd AC	Do the matte boxes come with the correct size trays for the filters you have?	
1st AC	Does the studio matte box secure properly to the rods? Does it swing away properly?	
1st AC	Does the studio matte box tilting function work correctly and smoothly?	
1st AC/2nd AC	Do you have the correct size donuts for the lens front diameters?	
1st AC/2nd AC	Do all hard mattes and chops secure to the studio matte box correctly?	
1st AC/2nd AC	Does the lightweight matte box secure to the front of the lenses securely?	
2nd AC	Do you have the correct size LMB backing plate(s) for the lens front diameter(s)?	
2nd AC	Fix Velcro to the SMB and LMB for filter tabs and additional flags and chops	
2nd AC	Unscrew the matte box shades and replace with Velcro	
1st AC	Do any matte boxes vignette on wider focal length lenses?	
1st AC	Is an alternative matte box required for specific lenses (e.g. LMB6 for wide-angle primes)?	
1st AC	If so, ensure that it is added to the list with the relevant backing plates, donuts, filter sizes, etc	
2nd AC	Mark each hard matte with its suitable focal lengths for all matte boxes	
2nd AC	Are step-down trays required for some filters (e.g. PV size filters in a 6X6 matte box)?	
1st AC	Do the rotating and geared trays operate properly?	
1st AC	Do you require a tilting filter tray? Does it operate correctly?	
1st AC	Do the dioptres mount correctly into the SMB dioptre tray? Is there a retaining ring included in the kit?	
1st AC	Do the dioptres mount into the LMB with a dioptre tray?	
2nd AC	Do the matte boxes all have a filter tray catcher? If not, make one from 1" camera tape	

	FILTERS	
2nd AC	Are all filters clean and free of scratches/chips? Log any damages and alert the rental house	
2nd AC	Are all filters the correct size for the matte boxes and lenses? Are step-down trays required?	
1st AC	Do you have the relevant double-up filters for different sizes (e.g. a PV and 6X6 sized POLA)?	
1st AC	Do you have the relevant double-up filters for multiple cameras (e.g. 2x Sets of Black Satin)?	
1st AC	Do the rotating polariser/variable ND filters rotate properly and smoothly?	
1st AC	Is the "out" position correct on the rotating ND filter?	
1st AC	Is there at least one optical flat filter in the kit? Are additional O/F filters required for extreme stunts/weather?	
2nd AC	Measure the stop-loss of each ND filter and confirm it is true to what it says (e.g. ND0.3 = 1 stop loss)	
2nd AC	Measure the green/magenta shift for each ND filter and list the differences	
1st AC/2nd AC	Measure/calculate the close focus of each lens with each dioptre and note the values	
2nd AC	Pack the filters into a location filters case for easy access. Clean the case with compressed air first	
2nd AC	Label filter positions inside the filters case	
2nd AC	Make filter tabs for each filter and stick inside the filters case	

	MONITORING	
Trainee	Do all monitors power up properly? Does the mains (AC) and battery (DC) input work on each monitor?	
Trainee	Are all monitors free of scratches and dead pixels?	
Trainee	Calibrate all monitors to colour bars. Check aperture, backlight and white balance settings are the same	
Trainee	Label each monitor with it's position (e.g. "A Camera Focus", "Checks Monitor")	
Trainee	Label the director's monitors with the camera operator names (e.g. "A Camera - John")	
Trainee	Do the Teradeks mount to and power from each monitor? Do you require adapter/breakout cables?	
Trainee	Do you have enough BNCs for the job? Test they all work, and you have enough spares of good lengths	
Trainee	Label all BNCs with their length/colour coding	
Trainee	Do you have back-up plans if monitors go down or swap around?	
Trainee	Does the playback device power up correctly?	
Trainee	Is the playback device easy to use? Does the Script Supervisor know how to use it?	
Trainee	Does the playback device auto-trigger with the Teradek? Is there a delay in the auto-trigger?	
Trainee	Record a test clip and ensure it will play back	
Trainee	Does the playback device have enough SSD drives, batteries, cables, power options, etc?	
Trainee	Ensure the playback device is routed so that playback is available for who requires it	
Trainee	Ensure all monitors have a primary and secondary power source (e.g. 1 = V-Lock Battery, 2 = Block Battery)	
Trainee	Ensure all monitors have a primary and secondary video source (e.g. 1 = Teradek, 2 = BNC drum)	
Trainee	Ensure all monitors have sunshades that fit properly. Make some from correx or cardboard if required	
Trainee	Tidy monitors into pouches, bags and boxes for safe travel	
Trainee	Build a Video magliner, with 13"/17" monitors on top; batteries, small monitors, rigging equipment on the bottom	

BASIC GRIP EQUIPMENT						
Grip/1st AC	Do the tripod legs tighten securely? Do they lift and lower smoothly? Are the the correct mount (Moy/Bowl)?					
Grip/1st AC	Is there a set of spreaders with each set of legs? Do they fasten to the legs and lock in place?					
Grip/1st AC	Does the head mount to the legs securely? Does it pan and tilt smoothly?					
Grip/1st AC	Does the pan/tilt fluid and counter-balance work properly? Is it appropriate for the weight of the camera?					
Grip/1st AC	Note the counter balance level for a basic build size as well as for larger lenses, etc					
Grip/1st AC	Does the snap-plate lock securely without play?					
1st AC	Is there a front box bracket included with each head? Does it mount properly?					
1st AC	Do the handheld bars lock properly and fit onto the camera? Does the shoulder pad fit properly?					
2nd AC	Pack the handheld bars and shoulder pad into a pouch					
1st AC	Do you require a Mitchell/H Plate or RBQR for the magliner? Is it secure? Does the camera fit securely?					
Grip/1st AC	Is the Easyrig correct for the weight of the camera? Find the central balance point and mark the position					
1st AC	Ensure the camera is well balanced for handheld/Steadicam operation					
1st AC	Fix an eye bolt to the camera and Kong Frog Clip to the Easyrig					

CAMERA TRUCK/ROOM						
1st AC	Arrange collection time of the equipment/arrival time of the truck					
Driver/1st AC	Ensure the weight limit of the truck fits the camera package					
Driver	Do we have a Generator for location filming with the truck? Is it fuelled? Does it come with the correct cables?					
Driver/2nd AC	Does the camera truck have an appropriate work station, lighting, power, etc?					
2nd AC	Sort consumables into storage boxes on the truck for easy access					
2nd AC	Pack the spares/empty cases into the truck					
2nd AC	Put together a filing system for the camera department paperwork. Make an In-an-Out book					
2nd AC	Ensure there are copies of dailies forms, timesheets, templates, schedule, equipment lists on the truck					
Trainee	Set up a charging station on the camera truck. Are there enough plugs?					
Trainee	Set up a coffee area/snacks tin, and ensure we have stock of coffee, water, milk, food, etc					
Trainee	Mark up a production calender with the first shoot block. Include shooting requirements (e.g. Steadicam, B Cam)					

	OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF	
1st AC	Confirm Specific daily requirements (e.g. B Cam days, Steadicam) - is additional kit & crew booked?	
1st AC	Contact the Sound Mixer - do they require an audio scratch track/timecode box on the camera? Confirm framerate	
1st AC	Underwater/Splashbags - Does the camera fit? Is it watertight/tested? Do you have Antifog/Rainex?	
1st AC	Does the Rain Deflector work correctly? Do you have Antifog/Rainex?	
1st AC	Build the camera in each build scenario to highlight any potential issues. Photograph the build for reference	
2nd AC	Do you have appropraite accessories for each build? Handheld, Dolly, Steadicam, Remote Head, Conventional	
2nd AC	Do you have enough magliners and carts for the equipment? Are they suitable for the locations?	
2nd AC	Are all magliner trays un-bent and clean? Do the wheels run smoothly? Do the brakes lock? Are the tyres pumped?	
2nd AC	Set up a Wet Weather box on the magliner, and a cleaning station on the truck	
2nd AC	Contact the Production Co-ordinator. Get copies of: schedule, unit list, cast grid, scripts	
2nd AC	Contact the Script Supervisor. Are we using the UK or US slating system?	
2nd AC	Do we require a digital clapperboard? Does the DOP want specfic information on the slate?	
2nd AC	Liaise with production about the design and ordering of printed/engraved slates	
2nd AC	Is there a lot of VFX work? Do you require a VFX slate & additional notes?	
2nd AC	Mark up all clapperboards, including comedy slates and insert slates	
2nd AC	Make up a note pad for each camera	
2nd AC	Do production/edit require digital or hard copies of camera reports? Who needs copies of them?	
2nd AC	Mark up empty boxes that are staying at the rental house. Photograph the contents of what is being left	
1st AC	Travelling Abroad - Ensure full kit lists are sent to production for carnet. Include personal items	
2nd AC	Travelling Abroad - Type up a carnet and liaise with production about requirements	
1st AC/2nd AC	Travelling with Batteries - Check flight regulations, print tech sheets, tape connectors, discharge to 30%	