Camera Prep Checklist

FILM 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	

	CAMERA BODY - EXTERIOR	
1st AC	BASE PLATES - do they secure/lock properly? Are the carry handle and installed plates secure?	
1st AC	BASE PLATES - do you have the correct mounts? Do you need additional plates for specific builds?	
1st AC	LENS MOUNT - is the camera the correct mount for all lenses? Is an adapter required?	
1st AC	LENS MOUNT - is the lens mount on the correct orientation (N35/S35 positions)	
1st AC	LENS MOUNT - does the LDS work correctly? Does the mount lock securely?	
1st AC	LENS MOUNT - check the flange depth/back focus of the camera. Does is need shimming?	
1st AC	BODY - is there any consmetic damage? Does it power up without errors? Do the fans run properly?	
1st AC	BODY - do all Record/REC buttons work properly?	
1st AC	BODY - does the framerate adjust properly on the digital display?	
1st AC	BODY - does the electronic shutter adjust and lock properly?	
1st AC	BODY - does the manual shutter adjust properly? Do you have the correct adjustment tools?	
1st AC	BODY - does the footage counter run the correct way? Can it be reset?	
1st AC	BODY - does the body have the correct cover plates for when a film magazine is not on the camera?	
1st AC	BODY - are additional cover plates/parts required? (eg. 100% video tap, steadicam brackets, etc)	
1st AC	GROUND GLASS - correct aspect ratio? Are the markings accurate? Installed correctly? Is it clean?	
1st AC	GROUND GLASS / FRAME LEADER - shoot a frame leader to mark the desired aspect ratio	
1st AC	VIDEO TAP - is the picture quality acceptable, and flicker free?	
1st AC	VIDEO TAP - do all the SDI video output ports work properly? Is an analogue-to-digital converter needed?	
1st AC	VIDEO TAP - set the correct focus and picture size of the tap	
1st AC	VIDEO TAP - set a digital aspect ratio mask that matches the ground glass. Is the on-screen text appropraite?	
1st AC	PORTS - do the LDS ports work properly? Are they the same radio firmware version as the LCS?	
1st AC	PORTS - do all the power outputs work properly?	
1st AC	TIMECODE - does the TC port work on the camera? Does the camera successfully embed TC into the stock? Set ASA	
1st AC	LENS RODS - do you have the correct length 15mm/19mm rods for the lenses?	
1st AC	VF - does the viewfinder close properly and not let light through? Does the ARRIGLOW/PANAGLOW work?	
1st AC	VF - do the viewfinder anamorphic desqueeze and zoom functions work properly?	
1st AC	VF - is the viewfinder clear of scratches and okay for the operator? Adjust dioptre to operator's eye and mark	
1st AC	VF - does the extension viewfinder mount correctly and can be adjusted smoothly?	
1st AC	VF - does the tripod head come with a levelling bracket that fits to the extension viewfinder bracket?	
2nd AC	Label the camera with an appropriate ID and mark the serial number in the sheets tin	

	CAMERA BODY - INTERIOR (FILM MOVEMENT)	
1st AC	Does the body have the correct film movement fitted? (eg. 4-Perf S35)	
1st AC	Does the body have the correct size gate, and blanking mattes that match the movement? (eg. N35 for anamorphic)	
1st AC	Is the camera gate clean of dust, dirt and rough edges? Does the gate remove/fix in place properly?	
1st AC	Do all film runners click in to place properly? Are the rollers running smoothly?	
1st AC	Are the registration pins working smoothly? Check for crunching or torn perforations after tests	
1st AC	Is the shutter phasing in-sync with the pull-down of the movement? Check at 1FPS to confirm	
1st AC	What is the maximum framerate of the camera? Does it run properly at high speed? Check for torn perfs	
1st AC	STEADY TEST - shoot a steady test and send to the lab to confirm movement is steady	

	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.	

FILM STOCK

	FILMISTOCK	
2nd AC	Confirm requirments with the laboratory. Where is it being processed? Are the rushes to be split at lunch?	
2nd AC	Confirm delivery requirements with production	
2nd AC	How much raw stock do we have? Is it on use-or-return basis?	
2nd AC	Check DOP's stock order (film type, lengths, quantity) and confirm the same has been ordered/arrived	
2nd AC	What is the approximate shooting ratio? Are there certain scens/days that require more stock?	
2nd AC	Does the lab need to be informed of a specific stock type? (eg. Black & White processing)	
2nd AC	Check shooting requirements with the DOP throughout the shoot (eg. Push-Processing, etc)	
2nd AC	Speak to the film lab. Have a point of contact and exchange contact details	
2nd AC	Do you have the correct size cans and lightproof bags (400ft or 1,000ft)?	
2nd AC	Do you have the correct gauge cores?	
2nd AC	Do you have enough 1" camera tape? Colours for stock types, black for exposed. 1 roll = approx 50 cans	
2nd AC	Do you have negative report sheets, film can labels, raw stock inventory reports, envelopes, etc?	
2nd AC	Design/print/order film can labels	

	FILM MAGAZINES	
2nd AC	Do you have the correct magazines suitable for the camera builds? (eg. Steadicam or shoulder magazines)	
2nd AC	Do you have enough magazines and the correct sizes for the amount of stock you have?	
2nd AC	Test every magazine for light leaks. Put a torch inside and turn off the test room lights to check	
2nd AC	Clean every magazine with compressed air and a no-loss paintbrush	
2nd AC	SCRATCH TESTS - run some virgin gash stock through each mag, confirm no scratches, label tests with S/N	
2nd AC	Ensure the footage counter functions on all mags. Can it be reset? Does it run down? Correct unit (m/ft)?	
2nd AC	Label magazines with the serial number in an easy-to-see place	
2nd AC	Clean out film magazine storage cases and put magazines into appropriate slots	
2nd AC	Ensure each magazine has a plastic film protector and a core in the take-up side	
2nd AC	Make labels for storage cases - coloured tabs for full rolls of stock, "MT" for empty mags, "X" for exposed	
2nd AC	Test the film changing tent for light leaks and tears. Put a torch inside, turn off lights and check for light	
2nd AC	Set up an appropriate film changing station on a magliner or camera truck. Keep important tools close by	
2nd AC	Do you have a back-up changing tent or bag? Do you need one?	
2nd AC	Test the dark room for light leaks in the door. Put a lamp on inside and check for light outside	
2nd AC	Clean the changing tent, changing bag and/or dark room to ensure it's dust-free	
2nd AC	Organise the loading station/dark room for effiency. Velcro important tools to the dark room wall	

	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 require extension cables for the dolly, ladder-pod, etc? Do specific looms need making up?	
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	Do you have enough battery chargers for all batteries? Create a tidy system for the chargers	
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 appropraite 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/Trainee	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?	
2nd AC	Confirm the stop-loss in the Polariser filters is correct	
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)	
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

	MONTORING	
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	Check aperture, backlight and white balance settings are the same on all monitors. Check picture quality is good	
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%	