Post-Flight QA Checklist

WHAT TO VERIFY BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE SITE

> **The flight app's "mission complete" status tells you the aircraft flew the planned path. It does not tell you the camera captured usable data.** Run this checklist before breaking down any equipment. Total time: 10–15 minutes. Time saved when it catches a problem: 2–6 hours plus mileage.

IMAGE REVIEW

#	CHECK ITEM	✓
1	Spot-check first 10, last 10, and 10–15 images from the middle — verify exposure and sharpness	☐
2	Zoom to 100% on 5–10 images from different areas — check for motion blur on ground features (roof edges, road markings, GCP targets)	☐
3	Verify all deployed GCP targets visible in nadir imagery — confirm all point IDs appear	☐
4	Check for lens fog, condensation, dust, or smudges — look for consistent artifacts in the same frame position across multiple images	☐
5	Confirm no extreme exposure shifts between flight segments (check images from takeoff, battery swap, and final approach)	☐

COVERAGE

#	CHECK ITEM	✓
6	Review flight app coverage overlay for gaps or missing lines — zoom in and count lines at battery swap points	☐
7	Verify 10–20% buffer beyond survey boundary on all sides — add a supplemental strip now if missing	☐
8	Check terrain-following altitude consistency (if applicable) — review EXIF altitude values for extreme variation from planned AGL	☐
9	Verify 2–3 line overlap at each battery swap zone — insufficient overlap causes alignment failure at the splice point	☐
10	Confirm all planned flight lines completed — compare actual line count to planned grid	☐

METADATA

#	CHECK ITEM	✓
11	GPS coordinates present in EXIF on 5 sample images from different parts of the flight	☐
12	EXIF altitude values match planned flight altitude (±10%) — DJI records in meters regardless of display units	☐
13	Image timestamps sequential with consistent intervals — typical mapping interval: 1.5–3 seconds. Gaps indicate missed triggers.	☐

#	CHECK ITEM	✓
14	Camera settings within acceptable range — ISO below 1600, shutter above 1/500s at mapping speeds	☐
15	Actual image count within 10% of expected count — if short by more than 10%, find the gap before leaving	☐

GCP RECOVERY

#	CHECK ITEM	✓
16	All removable targets collected and accounted for — check off each point ID against the deployment log	☐
17	Displaced targets documented — note point ID, estimated displacement distance and direction, photograph target in displaced position	☐
18	Permanent marks (painted GCPs) verified as visible and intact — photograph any that are damaged or partially obscured	☐

DATA BACKUP

#	CHECK ITEM	✓
19	SD card copied to laptop or portable SSD — start the copy while recovering GCPs; 5–8 min for ~800 images on USB 3.0	☐
20	File count verified — source card count matches destination count exactly	☐
21	3–5 images from beginning, middle, and end of destination copy opened and confirmed not corrupted	☐
22	Flight logs exported to project folder (DJI: via DJI Assistant or Airdata — logs overwrite after set number of flights)	☐
23	Dataset folder labeled — format: **ProjectName_YYYY-MM-DD_Flight##**	☐

23 items · 5 sections · 10–15 minutes on site · Start backup copy during GCP recovery to run in parallel

MISSION INFO

Project: _____

Site: _____

Date: _____ Flight #: _____

Platform: _____

Operator: _____

FLIGHT PARAMETERS

Planned AGL (ft): _____

Overlap F/L (%): _____

Expected image count: _____

Actual image count: _____

Battery swaps: _____