

Preparing a Cineflex Helicopter Take

Most producers are not familiar with aerial filming. A good preparation is therefore crucial – weather, permissions needed, coordination with protagonists and staff on ground request already a tremendous amount of attention during the filming day.

This short guide is intended to help you prepare your take in order getting a well ordered and peaceful filming day.

1. Location

- Where exactly are the locations? Valair Mission Control will help you define your locations by entering them into our Geo Information System, so you can see your locations on an electronic map. Besides the enormous benefits by NOT searching the location while in flight, this is the only way our Mission Control can evaluate if there have special permissions to be requested.
- What light do you need? Please consider that sunshine will be short in narrow valleys during the winter season, while in summertime, the sun is burning almost vertical preventing large shadows. It might be useful to take a look at the location on a good day before filming.

2. Time Schedule and needed staff

- light conditions and other factors define a logical sequence. Valair Mission Control shall plan with you stops for refueling or meal breaks.
- it is very important for you to define one person as "director on board". Where shall he board the helicopter? What informations does he need to prevent any uncertainties?
- are there critical time moments? What are the alternatives?

3. Technical Format / Deliverance of Film Material

- What format you record your other sequences in? In what format shall your production be cut? Under "Technical Specifications" you will find the formats we support
- How shall the cassettes or hard disks come to you after filming?

4. Communications between Helicopter and Staff on ground

- do you need any communication channel between Staff on ground and Helicopter?
- Who will be responsible therefore on ground and how can we instruct him?
- For takes with protagonists, the definition of an image- or story-code might be helpful, so everyone knows by heart what to do when the command "let's make image 5" comes.

5. Briefing on the day of filming

- plan enough time on the day of filming to instruct all involved staff (pilot, operator, director, coordinator on ground, protagonists...)