

Post-Flight QA Checklist

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 ($\pm 10\%$) — 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: _____