

## JOB PROFILE CAMERA OPERATOR

### Definition

Camera Operator is a member of the Director of Photography's (DoP) and/or the film director's team, performing their duties according to instructions of the aforementioned. Operators are familiar with the technical equipment and master camera operation, translating the scene's resolution into camera angles and realizing their technical execution. Furthermore, Camera Operators collaborate on coordinating camera work and acting choreography.

A special type of Camera Operator is the Steadicam Operator: In addition to everything already mentioned, they possess the proficiency of equipment specifically tailored to their individual needs.

### Knowledge / Education

Prerequisites for practicing this profession include comprehensive knowledge in the areas of image composition, scenic break-down, optical axes, editing techniques, etc.

### Area of activity and responsibility

A camera operator is responsible for guiding / moving the camera and for the image composition in accordance with the overall visual concept of the project. They operate (and move) one of several cameras according to instructions of the director and / or DoP; their judgment ultimately determines the image quality and message. The camera operator is not responsible for lighting.

### CAMERA OPERATOR - AREA OF ACTIVITY:

**Divided into the production phases of pre-production, filming and post-production, the scope of work of the Camera Operator includes:**

#### Pre-Production:

- Reading the screenplay, especially with regard to specific recording techniques.
- Ensuring the functionality of self-owned camera equipment for Steadicam
- According to prior agreement with DoP and 1st AC: assistance in creating a camera equipment list; functional testing of the camera(s) during a camera test at the film equipment rental house; test check and, if necessary, test repetition and equipment exchange.
- If necessary, clarify additional equipment needed with Key Grip, regarding fixings and rigging (for stunts, cars, top shots, etc.) and additional equipment such as gimbal, drone, etc.

### Filming:

- Instructions to the camera crew – especially the first camera assistant and the key grip – regarding camera setup and reconfiguration, and lens selection.
- Elimination of distracting light leakage into the lens (in consultation with DoP)
- According to prior agreement with DoP or 1st AC, increased focus during the recording on details (focus control, reflections, etc.) and, if necessary, feedback.

### Pre-Production:

- not applicable to third-party equipment;

## **Epilogue**

There is currently no established job description for this profession. Therefore, in cooperation with the Austrian Association of Cinematographers, aac, this job description was formulated based on current production processes, see <https://www.aacamera.org/berufsbild-kameraoperator/> and Austrian Union, see <https://www.younionfilm.at/filmschaffende/berufsbilder/#Schwenker>.