



## **Risk Assessment for safe use of Steadicams**

### **Scope:**

This document gives general guidance on use of Steadicams in BBC Studioworks. At the end of the document you will find the generic risk assessment for use of these cameras in the studio. It covers all reasonably expected use of this equipment. If what you require from the operators is not covered in this document please speak to the Resource Manager to ensure that a suitable risk assessment is undertaken.

### **Cameras:**

It's easy to become complacent about use of cameras in studios. Cameras can pose various hazards to both operators and others. The operator's manual handling is a concern with long periods of time in uncomfortable positions holding equipment. Consideration should always be given to use of peds or tripods where possible and where not then regular breaks where operators are able to rest the camera.

For audience members and contributors who are not used to being in a studio camera cables and movement of cameras can be a hazard. Ensure that cables are bashed as necessary and that everyone is aware of the intended movement a camera is due to make.

### **Steadicam:**

The Steadicam system is a special harness worn by the camera operator on to which a camera is fitted via special cantilever arms. This enables the camera to smoothly 'float' next to the operator whilst he/she is walking, running or even climbing stairs. The various Steadicam mounting systems now available enable smooth tracking shots to be achieved in circumstances where a track and dolly would be either impossible or impractical.

Steadicam operators need to be competent and physically fit as well as being capable of assessing the suitability and safety aspects of its use for any given Director's brief.

Operator's requirements regarding Steadicam use should always be well considered in advance of production as failure to consider the hazards may result in an injury to them or others.

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The people that might be harmed: Studioworks employees, contractors, public, artists

HAZARD	CONTROL
<p><b>Camera Platforms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trips, falls and injuries</li> <li>• Fall from heights</li> <li>• Dropping objects</li> <li>• Emergency evacuation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where camera platforms are required they must provide guardrails, toe boards, barriers and other collective means of protection of sufficient dimension to ensure a person cannot fall through or over them.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In most cases, the dimensions will be top rail height of 1.1m, mid rail height so the gap is no greater than 470mm, and toeboard height of 150mm</li> <li>○ Where camera sightlines may be affected by the height of the top rail, this can be reduced to a minimum height of 0.7m allied with other controls relating to access, supervision and protection of others (e.g. audience etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure that camera crew is comprised of experienced professional camera operators who are well used to working on platforms</li> <li>• Ensure that only authorized camera personnel have access to the platform</li> <li>• Provide signage to deter unauthorized access</li> <li>• Ensure access/egress routes including emergency escape routes are known by all and are not obstructed by equipment, people, cables, materials, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mobile Camera work (Steadicam)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Fatigue/manual handling/dehydration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning of activity to include frequent rest breaks</li> <li>• The distance covered by an operator should be limited. This to be assessed by the operator on the day.</li> <li>• All movement routes should be checked to ensure they are clear from items and debris before shots are undertaken. This includes through audience areas.</li> <li>• Wherever possible the steadicam will be taken off and placed on its stand, or at least the weight supported, when not actually in use.</li> </ul>

HAZARD	CONTROL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assistant will watch the operator’s back, carry the stand and provide general support and assistance.</li> <li>• Steadicam should only be operated by experienced operators</li> <li>• The operator is familiar with studios and experienced in undertaking Steadicam work within them.</li> <li>• Any comments on the steadicam operations or hazards encountered will be fed back to the floor manager and resource manager (via talkback) and suitable controls decided upon.</li> <li>• Appropriate footwear will be worn at all times</li> <li>• People in the area of operation will be avoided by the operator and ‘minded’ by the assistant.</li> <li>• Steadicams are fitted with wireless transmitters to relay pictures back to the PCRs. These units are regularly checked and maintained and comply with the requirements of the CEMFAW 16 Regulations</li> </ul>