AACE INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

95R-18

CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY TO DOCUMENT PROJECT STATUS

AACE INTERNATIONAL

AACE International Recommended Practice No. 95R-18

CONTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY TO DOCUMENT PROJECT STATUS

TCM Framework: 9.2 – Progress and Performance Measurement

Rev. February 27, 2019

Note: As AACE International Recommended Practices evolve over time, please refer to web.aacei.org for the latest revisions.

Any terms found in AACE Recommended Practices RP-90, *Cost Engineering Terminology*, supersede terms defined in other AACE work products, including but not limited to, other recommended practices, the *Total Cost Management Framework* and *Skills & Knowledge of Cost Engineering*.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Communicating and substantiating the current construction jobsite status is difficult to do in writing. Photographs can be far more effective as they have the potential to present more information than any other medium. However, photographs of jobsite status often fail to fully realize their potential in documenting the construction process due to the photographer's lack of understanding as to how to identify important features or how to compose a good picture. At other times, failure may come from losing important project information due to lack of organization or proper documentation of where and when the photo was taken.

This recommended practice (RP) of AACE International defines the tools, processes, and procedures that should be considered in order to optimize the planning, capture, organization, retrieval, and uses for electronic photographs of jobsite status.

This RP is intended to provide guidelines (i.e., not a standard) for jobsite photography. Although the photographer can be anyone who visits the jobsite, this RP is most applicable to those with an understanding of current project performance and work priorities who desire to develop a good and reliable practice of this skill.

SELECT THE RIGHT TOOLS

Understanding the various forms of equipment and tools available is an important aspect of construction photography. Digital cameras make the job of obtaining professional quality pictures much easier than using film cameras; it also contributes to significant savings in time. One can shoot as many shots as desired and select the best one without additional cost. Built-in electronic controls greatly assist the photographer in obtaining the best shot even using the camera's general setting. [1] Regardless of the type of camera, there are various features that should be considered when choosing a cam

Digital Zoom versus Optical Zoom

The zoom feature in a camera allows the photographer to properly frame a picture without having to move closer to the subject. There are two types of zoom, digital and optical. [5] Optical zoom uses a mechanical adjustment of the lenses to achieve the magnification. Digital zoom cuts out part of the captured picture and then expands the remaining to fill the original size, just as a software photo-editing program might do. This expansion of the picture results in a loss of quality, reducing the ability to later expand the picture again and still maintain sufficient detail.

Available Filters

Neutral-Density Filter. One important trick to prevent bright areas from being completely washed out in a photograph is to use a neutral-density (ND) filter. [6] This type of physical filter reduces the intensity of all light wavelengths equally, allowing the camera or photographer to select a wider range of settings, exposure time, and sensitivity. This process can produce superior results in high-contrast situations. [7]

Polarizing Filter. Light reflecting off a non-metallic surface may become polarized in a direction parallel to the surface. The intensity of the reflected polarized light may then wash out other objects in the area and hide what is behind an otherwise transparent surface. Using a polarizing filter can selectively block out this phenomenon, reducing the glare from puddles or windows, allowing the camera to capture what is visible behind a transparent surface. [19]