

Surveillance System Deployment Checklist

The gate-by-gate checklist a team runs before a surveillance system goes live. Companion to the article. Verify each item on the installed system, at night and under load.

How to use it: five gates, six domains

Move through five gates - design, staging, installation, commissioning, go-live - and verify the six domains below at each. Do not pass a gate until the prior work is verified against written criteria. Commission at night and under load; 'online' is not 'recording', and untested redundancy is a hope.

1 Cameras & coverage

- ☐ Field of view & framing match the design, per camera
- ☐ Pixel-density / DORI target met in the real scene (IEC 62676-4)
- ☐ Night & backlit image verified on the recording, not the live view
- ☐ Privacy masking applied to areas you may not record

3 Recording & storage

- ☐ Per-camera playback from the archive - not just 'online'
- ☐ Recording mode set per design (continuous / motion / event)
- ☐ Retention days verified against the storage math
- ☐ RAID / N+1 failover tested by causing a failure on purpose

5 Privacy & compliance

- ☐ Signage posted & privacy notice published (layered, EDPB 3/2019)
- ☐ DPIA completed and signed (large-scale / public monitoring)
- ☐ Retention auto-deletion set to the limit and tested (Art. 5(1)(e))
- ☐ Lawful basis / balancing test documented before go-live

2 Network & power

- ☐ PoE budget $\geq$ camera demand + 30% headroom (per switch)
- ☐ Cameras on an isolated VLAN, behind a firewall, no internet route
- ☐ Aggregate bandwidth + uplink headroom sized for record + retrieval
- ☐ One NTP / GPS clock; every device agrees (evidential time)

4 Analytics

- ☐ Each analytic runs on the planned tier (edge / server / cloud)
- ☐ Tuned to a livable false-alarm rate - never '100% / zero false'
- ☐ Acceptance criteria written and met on the live scene
- ☐ BIOMETRIC GATE: lawful basis / consent (GDPR Art. 9 / BIPA)

6 Cybersecurity & operations

- ☐ Every default password changed (the #1 exploited weakness)
- ☐ Firmware patched; no open CISA advisories for the models
- ☐ Streams & management traffic encrypted where supported
- ☐ Per-user RBAC + audit logging on (who viewed / exported)

Go-live gate & operations - the deployment is not done until these are true

- ☐ FAT passed on the bench / in staging before shipping to site
- ☐ SAT passed: all six domains verified on the installed system
- ☐ NDAA 889 / FAR 52.204-25 supply-chain screen confirmed (where it applies)
- ☐ Handover package delivered: SAT report, as-builts & config, device/credential inventory, maintenance plan / SLA, operator training, known-issues list
- ☐ Health monitoring live: a camera that stops recording is alerted in hours
- ☐ First-30-days review scheduled to catch focus drift, seasonal-light misfires, retention behaviour under real load

Engineering guidance, not legal advice. Biometric analytics (face recognition; in many places licence-plate recognition) process special-category / biometric data restricted under GDPR Art. 9 and Illinois BIPA (740 ILCS 14, with a private right of action and statutory damages); notice, a DPIA, and retention limits (GDPR Art. 5(1)(e), Art. 13, Art. 35; EDPB Guidelines 3/2019) are go-live blockers. Confirm specifics with qualified counsel.

Companion to: 'The Surveillance System Deployment Checklist'

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This checklist runs a surveillance rollout through five gates and six domains, from camera coverage to go-live handover. Our seven-volume handbook covers the video stack under a VMS: Volume 6 for detection, tracking and OCR analytics, Volume 7 for real-time pipelines and biometric regulation, Volume 1 for encoding and storage maths.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

- Detection, tracking and licence-plate OCR on camera feeds
- Edge vs server vs cloud analytics placement
- Biometric rules: EU AI Act and consent
- Encoding settings that drive storage and retention

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Vol. 3 · Video Streaming II — ABR, CDNs, players, WebRTC, DRM and the economics of delivery

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Vol. 6 · AI for Video I — models and inference, computer vision, speech, search, generative video

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