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NEC4 · CLAUSES 31 AND 32

DCMA 14-Point Checklist for NEC Programmes

The DCMA 14-point assessment is a standard schedule health check, but under NEC4 a failed check is not by itself a reason to refuse a programme. Run these checks before every clause 31 submission and clause 32 revision, fix the real faults and explain the rest before anyone asks.

1 Logic and links (checks 1 to 4)

- [ ] **Keep missing logic to 5% or fewer** of incomplete activities: open starts only at the start, open finishes only at completion milestones.
- [ ] **Use no leads.** Show an overlap as its own activity or a start-to-start link, not a negative lag.
- [ ] **Keep lags to 5% or fewer**, and name what each one stands for: a cure, a delivery, an approval.
- [ ] **Make 90% or more of the links finish-to-start**, so the logic models the work rather than the dates.

State it: *the logic figures, and every open end that remains with its reason.*

2 Dates, constraints and float (checks 5, 6, 7 and 9)

- [ ] **Keep hard constraints to 5% or fewer**, each tied to a contract date: the starting date, an access date, a Key Date or the Completion Date.
- [ ] **Test high float**: 5% or fewer activities over 44 working days, each one checked for a missing successor.
- [ ] **Explain any negative float**: where planned Completion is late, show how you plan to deal with the delay (clause 32.1).
- [ ] **Clear invalid dates**: no forecast before the data date and no actual after it.

State it: *each constraint and its contract date, and the plan behind any negative float.*

3 Durations and resources (checks 8 and 10)

- [ ] **Keep high durations to 5% or fewer** over 44 working days, unless the Scope sets its own limit.
- [ ] **Split long activities** wherever they will be progressed or used to assess an event.
- [ ] **Give the clause 31.2 statement**: how each operation will be done, with its principal Equipment and other resources.
- [ ] **Load resources only if the Scope asks**, then report the DCMA resources check with the submission.

State it: *the longest activities that remain, and why each stays long.*

A failed check is evidence, not a reason to refuse.

4 Progress against the Accepted Programme (checks 11, 13 and 14)

- [ ] **Set the current Accepted Programme as the baseline** (clause 11.2(1)), not the tender programme.
- [ ] **Keep missed tasks to 5% or fewer** against that baseline.
- [ ] **Hold BEI at 0.95 or more**: tasks finished, divided by tasks due by the status date.
- [ ] **Read CPLI against 1.0**: below 0.95, planned Completion needs time the programme does not have.

State it: *the baseline revision used, and the BEI and CPLI it produced.*

5 The contract tests (check 12 and clause 31)

- [ ] **Pass the critical path test**: a delay added to a critical activity moves planned Completion by the same amount.
- [ ] **Show every clause 31.2 item**, including any other information the Scope requires, in the form the Scope states.
- [ ] **Read every remaining flag against clause 31.3**: not practicable, information missing, not realistic or not compliant with the Scope.
- [ ] **Explain each remaining flag in the submission**, tied to the plan rather than the score.

State it: *which flags remain, and why none of them is a reason to refuse.*

Before it goes in

Ready to submit when all three hold.

- [ ] Every flag is fixed or explained.
- [ ] Every explanation is tied to the plan, not the score.
- [ ] The programme can carry the next compensation event (clause 63.5).

Want a second pair of eyes before it goes in? Book a 30-minute call about Clause 31 and 32 programmes.

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