and then modification may continue after design submittal. As a result, the budget will reflect the expense of a complex design. If, however, system function is the only factor and how the rigging looks does not matter; then a more cost-effective, but equivalently safe, design approach will be used.

Regardless of the outcome, analysis of the mission is one of the most critical stages within the process. Without a clearly defined mission, valuable time can be wasted on solutions developed for unnecessary needs, or a critical need may be overlooked.

Information Gathering

Once a clear mission is stated, it is time to compile the data needed to create a rigging system that will do the job, be safe and save as much time and money as possible. The accompanying checklist is used when entering into a rigging system design.

Assessment

The next stage in the process is to weigh the information gathered against the mission of the project and sort out the most important factors. Then try to reduce those factors to as few as possible. By doing this, the most effort is spent on the most important factors and not wasting time on minor details that may otherwise seem important if the mission were not clear. In most cases, the project assessment can be whittled down to about five primary issues. These five issues should take 80% of the planning time; the rest should fall into place naturally.

Planning

This process phase is second in importance only to implementation. Without proper planning, the entire project can fall apart—figuratively and possibly literally. Planning includes logistics, finance, vendor management, documentation, communication of timelines and, most importantly, a clear mental picture of how the project should be completed.

Tools such as schedules, drawings and outlines help with planning projects. Many different approaches to the planning process can be used, varying from very loose generalities to incredibly detailed scheduling charts incorporating spreadsheets and charting software. Any of these approaches can be successful, depending on the individuals in charge of the plan; the planning system must be a fit with the people using it.

Implement

The manager of the project is responsible for communicating project