Advanced AML Investigations and Financial Intelligence Training Course



Ref: #BI41060078

Course Introduction / Overview:

Money laundering schemes are growing more complex every year, driven by trade-based techniques, layered corporate structures, virtual assets, and cross-border payment networks that move illicit funds within seconds. This Advanced AML Investigations and Financial Intelligence Training Course gives compliance professionals, financial investigators, and intelligence analysts the advanced knowledge they need to detect, investigate, and disrupt financial crime with confidence. The course covers the full investigative cycle from A to Z. It starts with the global anti-money laundering framework and the FATF Recommendations, then moves to risk-based transaction monitoring, suspicious activity reporting, beneficial ownership tracing, financial intelligence analysis, asset tracing, and building evidence-based case files ready for law enforcement and regulators. Participants learn how financial intelligence units transform raw data into actionable intelligence, and how to apply link analysis, network mapping, and typology-driven investigation methods to real-world cases. The program also draws on Peter Reuter and Edwin M. Truman, whose book Chasing Dirty Money examines the effectiveness of global anti-money laundering regimes and gives participants a critical lens for evaluating their own controls. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this course to balance strategic understanding with hands-on investigative practice, so participants return to their organizations ready to strengthen AML compliance programs, improve the quality of suspicious transaction reports, and support counter-terrorist financing efforts with sound judgment and professional rigor.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- AML compliance officers and money laundering reporting officers.
- Financial crime investigators and fraud examiners.
- Financial intelligence analysts and intelligence unit staff.
- Compliance managers and heads of compliance departments.
- KYC and customer due diligence specialists.
- Transaction monitoring analysts and alert reviewers.
- Sanctions screening and counter-terrorist financing specialists.
- Internal auditors and risk management professionals.
- Law enforcement officers working on economic and financial crime.
- Regulatory supervisors and inspection staff.
- Legal advisors and prosecutors dealing with financial crime cases.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Commercial, retail, and investment banks facing strict AML and CFT regulatory requirements.
- Islamic banks and financial institutions.
- Insurance and takaful companies.
- Money exchange houses, remittance providers, and payment service providers.
- Capital markets, brokerage firms, and asset management companies.
- Fintech companies and virtual asset service providers.
- Real estate, precious metals, and high-value goods dealers.
- Accounting, auditing, and legal service firms.
- Government agencies, financial intelligence units, central banks, regulatory authorities, customs, and law enforcement bodies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Compliance and AML departments seeking stronger detection and reporting capabilities.
- Financial crime and fraud investigation units.
- Risk management departments.
- Internal audit departments.
- Legal and regulatory affairs departments.
- Operations and transaction monitoring teams.
- Customer onboarding and KYC departments.
- Security and intelligence departments.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will be able to:

- Analyze the international AML and CFT framework, including the FATF Recommendations and national regulatory obligations.
- Apply a risk-based approach to identifying and assessing money laundering and terrorist financing risks.
- Recognize advanced money laundering typologies, including trade-based money laundering and the misuse of virtual assets.
- Conduct structured financial investigations from alert to final case conclusion.
- Trace beneficial ownership through complex corporate structures, trusts, and nominee arrangements.
- Use financial intelligence analysis techniques, including link analysis and network mapping, to uncover hidden relationships.
- Prepare high-quality suspicious activity and suspicious transaction reports that add value to financial intelligence units.
- Trace, identify, and support the freezing and recovery of illicit assets.
- Collect, document, and preserve financial evidence to meet legal and regulatory standards.
- Evaluate and strengthen the effectiveness of their organization's AML compliance program.

Course Methodology:

This training course follows an interactive, practice-driven methodology designed to build real investigative capability rather than theoretical awareness alone. Each day combines focused expert presentations with applied exercises that mirror the challenges participants face in compliance and investigation work. Real-world case studies form the core of the learning experience, drawn from documented money laundering schemes, sanctions evasion cases, and terrorist financing networks, allowing participants to analyze how criminals exploit financial systems and where controls failed or succeeded. Participants work in small teams on simulated investigations, reviewing transaction data, customer profiles, and corporate records to build a complete case from the first alert to the final report. Group discussions encourage the exchange of experience across sectors, so bankers, regulators, and law enforcement participants learn from each other's perspectives. Practical workshops cover link analysis, beneficial ownership tracing, red flag identification, and report writing, with each output reviewed by the trainer. Role-play exercises place participants in interview and escalation scenarios to sharpen their judgment and communication skills. Continuous feedback is a key element of the program: the trainer gives individual and team feedback after each exercise, and participants reflect on how they would apply each lesson in their own organizations. BIG BEN Training Center ensures that every session links concepts to daily practice, so participants leave with skills they can apply immediately.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: The Global AML and CFT Framework and Regulatory Expectations

- The evolution of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regimes.
- The FATF Recommendations and the mutual evaluation process.
- The role of the Egmont Group and international cooperation between financial intelligence units.
- National AML laws and their alignment with international standards.
- Regulatory expectations for financial and designated non-financial institutions.
- Effectiveness versus technical compliance in AML supervision.
- Lessons from major enforcement actions and regulatory penalties.

Unit Two: Risk-Based Approach and Enterprise-Wide Risk Assessment

- Principles of the risk-based approach in AML compliance.
- Designing an enterprise-wide money laundering risk assessment.
- Customer, product, channel, and geographic risk factors.
- National risk assessments and how they shape institutional risk.
- Risk appetite and the calibration of controls.
- Enhanced due diligence for high-risk customers and politically exposed persons.
- Documenting and updating risk assessments for regulatory review.

Unit Three: Advanced Money Laundering Typologies and Emerging Threats

- The three stages of money laundering in modern financial systems.
- Trade-based money laundering and invoice manipulation schemes.
- Shell companies, front companies, and complex corporate layering.
- Misuse of virtual assets, crypto exchanges, and mixing services.
- Real estate, luxury goods, and precious metals as laundering channels.
- Professional money laundering networks and gatekeepers.
- Terrorist financing typologies and their differences from money laundering.

Unit Four: Customer Due Diligence and Beneficial Ownership Investigations

- Advanced KYC and ongoing customer due diligence practices.
- Identifying ultimate beneficial owners in multi-layered structures.
- Trusts, foundations, and nominee arrangements as concealment tools.
- Using corporate registries and open-source information in ownership tracing.
- Red flags in customer onboarding and account behavior.
- Source of funds and source of wealth verification.
- Case study on uncovering hidden ownership in a complex structure.

Unit Five: Transaction Monitoring and Alert Investigation

- Designing effective transaction monitoring scenarios and thresholds.
- Reducing false positives while maintaining detection quality.
- Structured alert review and triage processes.
- Analyzing unusual transaction patterns and behavioral anomalies.
- Cross-border payments, correspondent banking, and nested accounts.
- Escalation procedures and decision documentation.
- Practical workshop on investigating monitoring alerts.

Unit Six: Financial Intelligence Analysis Techniques

- The intelligence cycle in a financial crime context.
- Turning raw financial data into actionable intelligence.
- Link analysis and network mapping of entities and transactions.
- Tactical, operational, and strategic financial intelligence.
- Open-source intelligence in financial investigations.
- Data analytics and visualization for detecting hidden relationships.
- Practical exercise on building an intelligence chart from case data.

Unit Seven: Suspicious Activity Reporting and Working with Financial Intelligence Units

- Legal obligations for reporting suspicious transactions.
- Elements of a high-quality suspicious activity report.
- Writing clear, concise, and evidence-based report narratives.
- Tipping-off prohibitions and confidentiality requirements.
- How financial intelligence units analyze and disseminate reports.
- Responding to requests for information from authorities.
- Workshop on drafting and reviewing suspicious transaction reports.

Unit Eight: Sanctions Compliance and Counter-Terrorist Financing Investigations

- International and national sanctions regimes and their obligations.
- Sanctions screening, name matching, and handling potential matches.
- Sanctions evasion techniques and red flags.
- Proliferation financing risks and controls.
- Investigating terrorist financing through charities and informal value transfer systems.
- Targeted financial sanctions and asset freezing procedures.
- Case study on a sanctions evasion network.

Unit Nine: Asset Tracing, Financial Evidence, and Case Building

- Principles of following the money in complex investigations.
- Asset tracing methods across jurisdictions.
- Collecting and preserving financial evidence to legal standards.
- Investigative interviewing in financial crime cases.
- Building a complete case file from alert to referral.
- International cooperation and mutual legal assistance.
- Supporting asset freezing, confiscation, and recovery.

Unit Ten: Strengthening AML Program Effectiveness and Investigation Governance

- Governance, accountability, and the role of the board and senior management.
- Independent testing and AML audit approaches.
- Key performance indicators for AML and investigation functions.
- Building a strong compliance culture across the organization.
- Training and awareness programs for frontline staff.
- Quality assurance for investigations and reporting.
- Final integrated case simulation and action plan development.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans Ten days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 40 - 45 training hours.

Something to think about:

If criminals adapt their methods faster than regulations and monitoring systems can change, should the success of an AML program be measured by the number of suspicious reports it files or by the real disruption it causes to criminal networks?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course stands out because it treats AML investigations and financial intelligence as one connected discipline, not as separate compliance tasks. Many programs stop at regulatory awareness. This course takes participants through the complete investigative journey: identifying risk, detecting suspicious behavior, tracing beneficial ownership, analyzing financial intelligence, writing strong suspicious activity reports, and building case files that stand up to legal and regulatory scrutiny. The learning is built around realistic case studies and simulated investigations, so participants practice the same analytical judgment they will need when facing a complex alert, a layered corporate structure, or a cross-border payment chain. A strong focus on advanced typologies, including trade-based money laundering, virtual assets, professional laundering networks, and sanctions evasion, prepares participants for the threats that are shaping financial crime today. The course also brings together perspectives from banks, regulators, financial intelligence units, and law enforcement, helping participants understand how their work fits into the wider national and international effort against money laundering and terrorist financing. Participants explore not only how to meet regulatory obligations but also how to make their AML programs truly effective, measurable, and responsive to emerging risks. BIG BEN Training Center delivers this course with an academic yet practical approach, ensuring that every concept connects to a clear action participants can apply in their organizations from the first day back at work.