Navigating Saudi Banking Regulatory Compliance Training Course

Ref: #GRC3225

Course Introduction / Overview:

The Saudi Arabian banking sector is undergoing a dynamic transformation, driven by Vision 2030 and the rapid evolution of global financial standards. This creates a complex and challenging environment where a deep understanding of regulatory compliance is no longer optional but essential for institutional stability and growth. This intensive program is meticulously designed to provide a comprehensive A-to-Z guide to the Kingdom's banking regulatory framework. As noted by the esteemed legal scholar Ross Cranston in his seminal work, "Principles of Banking Law," the foundation of a stable financial system rests on robust and clearly understood regulations. This course translates that principle into practice, focusing specifically on the rules and circulars issued by the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) and other key regulatory bodies. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to empower banking professionals with the knowledge to navigate intricate compliance requirements, from Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorist Financing (CFT) to prudential regulations like Basel III and the SAMA Cybersecurity Framework. Participants will gain practical insights into managing compliance risks, ensuring strong corporate governance, and adapting to emerging challenges in FinTech and digital banking, thereby safeguarding their institutions and contributing to the integrity of the Saudi financial market.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Legal Counsels and In-house Lawyers.
- Banking Operations Managers and Staff.
- Relationship Managers and Client-facing Executives.
- Corporate Governance Specialists.
- Treasury and Finance Professionals.
- Board Members and Senior Management.
- IT and Cybersecurity professionals in the banking sector.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Commercial and Retail Banks.
- Investment Banks and Brokerage Firms.
- Islamic Banking Institutions.
- Digital and Challenger Banks.
- Financial Technology (FinTech) and Payment Service Providers.
- Asset Management and Wealth Management Firms.
- Insurance and Takaful Companies.
- Governmental regulatory bodies and financial authorities.
- Consulting and Advisory Firms specializing in financial services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Department.
- Risk Management Department.
- Legal Affairs and Corporate Secretariat.
- Internal Audit and Control.
- Banking Operations and Central Processing.
- Corporate and Institutional Banking.
- Retail and Private Banking.
- Treasury and Capital Markets.
- Information Technology and Cybersecurity.
- Strategy and Corporate Development.

Course Offerings:

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

- Interpret the legal and regulatory framework governing the Saudi banking sector.
- Develop and implement effective AML/CFT policies and procedures in line with SAMA rules.
- Apply the principles of the Basel III framework to manage capital and liquidity risk.
- Analyze and manage key operational, credit, and market risks.
- Strengthen corporate governance structures to meet regulatory expectations.
- Implement robust consumer protection principles within their organizations.
- Navigate the compliance requirements for digital banking and FinTech innovations.
- Prepare for and effectively manage regulatory inspections and audits by SAMA.
- Understand the SAMA Cybersecurity Framework and its implementation requirements.
- Report regulatory information accurately and in a timely manner.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, moving beyond theoretical lectures to foster deep, applicable skills. This course employs a blended learning approach that combines expert-led presentations with hands-on, practical exercises. A cornerstone of the program is the extensive use of case studies based on real-world regulatory scenarios and enforcement actions within the Saudi and global banking sectors. Participants will engage in collaborative group workshops to dissect complex compliance problems, design risk mitigation strategies, and develop internal control frameworks. Interactive sessions, Q&A panels, and peer-to-peer discussions are integrated throughout the five days to encourage knowledge sharing and address specific challenges faced by attendees in their roles. Role-playing exercises, such as simulating a regulatory audit or a compliance committee meeting, will provide a safe environment to practice critical skills. Continuous feedback from the instructor ensures that participants can immediately apply the learned concepts to their professional responsibilities, making the learning experience both impactful and directly relevant to their careers.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the Saudi Banking Regulatory Framework

- Introduction to the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) and its mandate.
- Overview of the Capital Market Authority (CMA) and its role.
- Key banking laws, rules, and circulars in Saudi Arabia.
- The impact of Vision 2030 on the financial services sector.
- Understanding the structure of the Saudi financial system.
- The role of international standard-setting bodies (FSB, BCBS).
- Core principles of effective regulatory compliance management.

Unit Two: AML and CFT Compliance in the Kingdom

- Understanding the legal framework for AML/CFT in Saudi Arabia.
- Deep dive into SAMA's AML/CFT rules and guidelines.
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations and mutual evaluations.
- Developing a risk-based approach to customer due diligence (CDD/KYC).
- Enhanced due diligence for high-risk customers and PEPs.
- Suspicious transaction monitoring, investigation, and reporting (SARs).
- Sanctions screening and compliance obligations.

Unit Three: Prudential Regulation and Integrated Risk Management

- Implementing the Basel III framework for capital adequacy.
- Managing liquidity risk according to SAMA's requirements.
- Frameworks for credit risk assessment and mitigation.
- Operational risk management and internal control systems.
- Market risk measurement and management techniques.
- The Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP).
- Regulatory reporting requirements for prudential standards.

Unit Four: Corporate Governance and Consumer Protection

- SAMA's Corporate Governance Regulations for banks.
- Roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and its committees.
- Managing conflicts of interest and related party transactions.
- Establishing a strong compliance culture and code of conduct.
- SAMA's Principles for the Protection of Financial Consumers.
- Mechanisms for fair treatment of clients and complaint handling.
- Conduct risk and its impact on institutional reputation.

Unit Five: Emerging Trends, Technology, and Future of Compliance

- Regulatory landscape for FinTech and digital banking in Saudi Arabia.
- Navigating the SAMA Cybersecurity Framework requirements.
- Data privacy and protection regulations in the financial sector.
- The role of Regulatory Technology (RegTech) in enhancing compliance.
- Managing cross-border compliance and international regulations.
- Best practices for preparing for and managing SAMA inspections.
- The future of banking regulation and the role of the compliance officer.

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 five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As digital transformation accelerates under Vision 2030, how can traditional compliance frameworks evolve to effectively govern emerging FinTech risks without stifling innovation?

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

This training course distinguishes itself through its exclusive and granular focus on the Saudi Arabian regulatory environment, a feature often diluted in more generic, region-wide programs. While other courses may provide a broad overview of global banking standards, this program is meticulously tailored to the specific circulars, rules, and supervisory expectations of the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA). The curriculum moves beyond theoretical knowledge by integrating practical case studies and scenarios directly relevant to the challenges and opportunities within the Kingdom's market. It addresses not only the foundational pillars of compliance, such as AML and Basel III, but also dedicates significant attention to forward-looking topics critical to Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, including the SAMA Cybersecurity Framework, FinTech regulation, and data privacy. The academic rigor is balanced with a highly practical approach, ensuring that participants leave not just with knowledge, but with actionable strategies and frameworks they can implement immediately. This focus on local applicability and future-readiness provides a level of depth and relevance that is unparalleled, making it an essential investment for any professional committed to excellence in the Saudi banking sector.