



Global Freight Forwarding and Customs Compliance Training Course

Ref: #LOG3568



Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's interconnected global economy, the efficient and compliant movement of goods across international borders is paramount to business success. This course provides a comprehensive exploration of international freight forwarding and customs compliance, two intrinsically linked disciplines that form the backbone of global trade. Participants will delve into the complexities of logistics, transportation modes, and the critical documentation required for seamless cargo flow. The curriculum is designed to demystify the intricate world of customs regulations, tariff classifications, and valuation methods, ensuring that organizations can navigate the legal landscape with confidence and avoid costly penalties. Drawing on principles outlined in seminal works like "Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management" by John Mangan, the course emphasizes practical application. As the renowned logistics academic Dr. Alan McKinnon has noted, understanding the synergy between operations and regulation is key to building resilient supply chains. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to equip professionals with the strategic insights and operational skills needed to manage international shipments effectively, mitigate risks, and optimize supply chain performance from origin to final destination.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:



- Logistics and Supply Chain Managers.
- Import/Export Coordinators and Specialists.
- Freight Forwarders and Customs Brokers.
- Procurement and Purchasing Professionals.
- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Warehouse and Distribution Supervisors.
- International Sales and Marketing Staff.
- Business Owners and Entrepreneurs in international trade.
- Legal professionals specializing in trade law.
- Operations Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Aerospace and Automotive.
- Technology and Electronics.
- Agriculture and Food Products.
- Oil and Gas.
- Construction and Engineering.
- Governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Third-Party Logistics (3PL) Providers.

Target Organizations Departments:



- Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- Procurement and Sourcing.
- Import/Export Operations.
- Legal and Compliance.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Warehouse and Distribution.
- International Trade and Sales.
- Operations Management.
- Risk Management.

Course Offerings:

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

- Master the fundamentals of international freight forwarding and its role in global trade.
- Navigate the complexities of customs procedures and compliance requirements.
- Correctly prepare and manage essential import/export documentation.
- Understand and apply Incoterms 2020 to international sales contracts.
- Perform accurate tariff classification using the Harmonized System (HS).
- Calculate customs duties, taxes, and fees effectively.
- Develop strategies for mitigating risks in international shipping and logistics.
- Analyze and select appropriate transportation modes for different types of cargo.
- Implement best practices for supply chain security and trade compliance.
- Evaluate the impact of free trade agreements on customs processes.

Course Methodology:



The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and highly practical, moving beyond theoretical lectures to foster deep, applicable learning. This course utilizes a blended approach that combines expert-led instruction with hands-on, collaborative activities. Participants will engage in detailed case study analyses of real-world shipping and customs clearance scenarios, allowing them to dissect complex problems and develop effective solutions. Interactive group discussions and workshops will encourage the sharing of diverse experiences and perspectives on topics such as tariff classification and trade compliance challenges. Role-playing exercises will simulate negotiations with carriers and customs officials, building practical communication and problem-solving skills. The program incorporates practical sessions focused on completing critical shipping documents like the Bill of Lading and commercial invoices. Throughout the course, instructors provide continuous feedback and facilitate a dynamic learning environment where participants can ask questions, tackle challenges, and build the confidence to apply their new knowledge directly to their professional roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Introduction to Global Trade and Freight Forwarding



- The Global Logistics Landscape.
- Roles and Responsibilities of a Freight Forwarder.
- Key Stakeholders in International Trade.
- Introduction to Transportation Modes (Sea, Air, Road, Rail).
- Understanding Multimodal and Intermodal Transport.
- Fundamentals of Supply Chain Management.
- Introduction to International Commercial Terms (Incoterms 2020).

Unit Two: International Shipping Documentation and Procedures

- Mastering the Bill of Lading (B/L) and Air Waybill (AWB).
- Preparing Commercial Invoices and Packing Lists.
- The Importance of the Certificate of Origin.
- Shipper's Letter of Instruction (SLI) and other key documents.
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in freight forwarding.
- Cargo Insurance Principles and Documentation.
- Managing and Archiving Trade Documents.

Unit Three: Fundamentals of Customs Compliance and Clearance

- The Role of Customs Authorities and Brokers.
- The Customs Clearance Process from A to Z.
- Introduction to the Harmonized System (HS) for Tariff Classification.
- Principles of Customs Valuation.
- Calculating Duties, Taxes, and Other Fees.
- Understanding Rules of Origin.
- Procedures for Temporary Imports and Exports.

Unit Four: Trade Regulations, Risk Management, and Security



- Navigating International Trade Agreements and Blocs.
- Understanding Export Controls and Sanctioned Party Screening.
- Import Prohibitions and Restrictions.
- Risk Management in the Global Supply Chain.
- Supply Chain Security Programs (C-TPAT and AEO).
- Managing Customs Audits and Inquiries.
- Legal Liabilities and Dispute Resolution in Freight Forwarding.

Unit Five: Advanced Logistics and Future Trends

- Optimizing Logistics Costs and Carrier Selection.
- Leveraging Technology in Freight Forwarding (TMS, Visibility Platforms).
- Sustainable and Green Logistics Practices.
- The Impact of E-commerce on International Logistics.
- Managing Dangerous Goods (DG) Shipments.
- Future of Freight Forwarding: Digitalization and Automation.
- Developing a Comprehensive Trade Compliance Program.

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:



Considering the rise of digitalization and geopolitical shifts, how might the roles of freight forwarders and customs compliance officers evolve to become more strategic and less transactional in the next decade?

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

This training course distinguishes itself through its integrated and strategic approach, treating freight forwarding and customs compliance not as separate functions but as a unified discipline essential for modern global trade. While many programs focus narrowly on either operational logistics or regulatory rules, this course bridges the gap, demonstrating how seamless forwarding operations are fundamentally dependent on robust compliance strategies. The curriculum is built upon practical, real-world applications rather than abstract theory. Participants will not just learn the definitions of Incoterms or HS codes; they will actively apply them in complex case studies that mirror the challenges they face professionally, such as classifying ambiguous products or structuring shipments to legally optimize duty payments. Furthermore, the course content is forward-looking, addressing the impacts of digitalization, supply chain security initiatives like AEO, and sustainability on the industry. This ensures that participants leave not only with the skills to excel in today's environment but also with the strategic foresight to navigate the future of international logistics and trade.