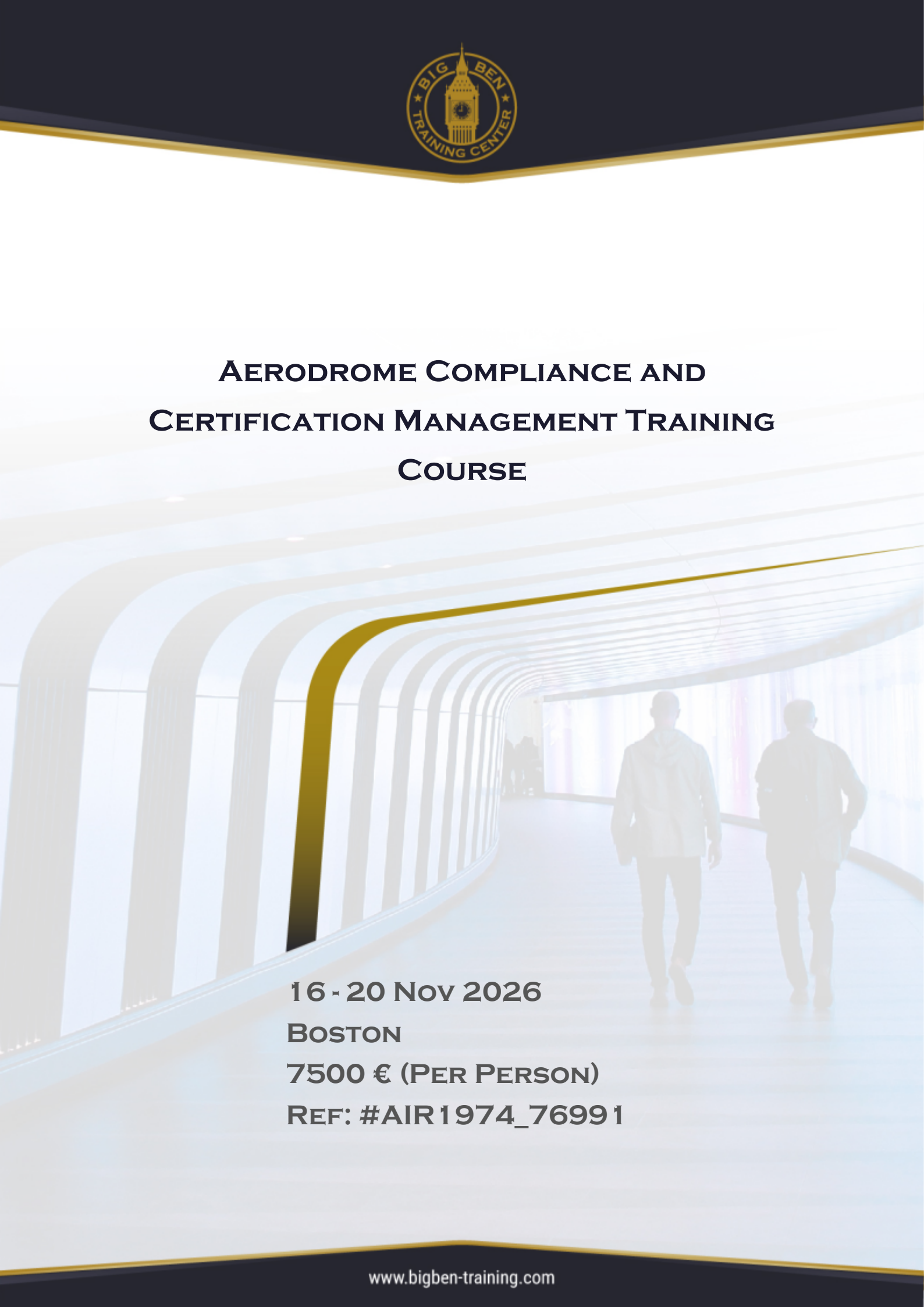
Aerodrome Compliance and Certification Management Training Course



16 - 20 Nov 2026

Boston

7500 € (Per Person)

Ref: #AIR1974_76991

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive and in-depth exploration of the aerodrome certification and compliance landscape, a critical component for ensuring global aviation safety and operational integrity. Navigating the complex web of international standards and national regulations is paramount for any airport authority. This program is meticulously designed to demystify the certification process, from initial application to ongoing compliance monitoring. We will delve into the foundational principles set forth by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), particularly focusing on the standards and recommended practices outlined in Annex 14, "Aerodromes". As discussed by aviation law expert Dr. R. I. R. Abeyratne, strict adherence to these international conventions is not merely a legal requirement but the bedrock of a safe and efficient air transport system. Participants will gain practical skills to develop and maintain a robust Aerodrome Manual, implement an effective Safety Management System (SMS), and confidently prepare for regulatory audits. BIG BEN Training Center has structured this course to empower aviation professionals with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve and sustain full regulatory compliance, thereby enhancing safety, minimizing operational risks, and fostering stakeholder confidence in their aerodrome's capabilities.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airport Managers and Directors.
- Aerodrome Operations Managers.
- Aviation Safety and Compliance Officers.
- Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Inspectors and Personnel.
- Airport Planners and Engineers.
- Airside Operations Supervisors.
- Ground Handling Managers.
- Aviation Consultants and Auditors.
- Emergency Response Planners.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Airport Authorities and Operators.
- Air Navigation Service Providers.
- Aviation Consulting Firms.
- Ground Handling and FBO Operators.
- Governmental bodies, including Civil Aviation Authorities and Ministries of Transport.
- Aerospace and Airport Construction Companies.
- International Aviation Organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Airport Operations.
- Safety and Compliance.
- Regulatory Affairs.
- Airside Management.
- Airport Planning and Development.
- Emergency Response and Management.
- Quality Assurance.
- Technical Services and Engineering.

Course Offerings:

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

- Interpret and apply the standards and recommended practices of ICAO Annex 14.
- Develop, implement, and manage a compliant Aerodrome Manual.
- Establish and maintain a fully functional Safety Management System (SMS) for an aerodrome.
- Conduct comprehensive internal audits and prepare for external regulatory inspections.
- Manage aerodrome physical characteristics, including runways, taxiways, and lighting.
- Analyze and control obstacle limitation surfaces (OLS) to ensure operational safety.
- Formulate effective corrective action plans to address compliance findings.
- Understand the key differences and overlaps between EASA, FAA, and other national regulations.
- Integrate the Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) with certification requirements.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, engaging, and practical, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning in a real-world context. We move beyond traditional lecture-based formats to create an immersive adult learning environment. The course is built upon a foundation of expert-led instruction, where complex regulatory concepts are broken down into understandable and manageable components. This is heavily supplemented by collaborative group discussions and workshops, allowing participants to share experiences and learn from their peers' unique operational challenges. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to analyzing real-world case studies, examining both successful certification projects and instances of non-compliance to draw critical lessons. Practical exercises, such as drafting key sections of an Aerodrome Manual or conducting a mock risk assessment for a Safety Management System, provide hands-on experience. Continuous feedback from the instructor and peer review sessions are integrated throughout the five days to reinforce learning, build confidence, and ensure a thorough grasp of aerodrome compliance and certification management.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of Aerodrome Certification and Regulatory Frameworks

- The Role of ICAO in Global Aviation Safety.
- Deep Dive into ICAO Annex 14, Volume I - Aerodrome Design and Operations.
- Understanding the Structure of National Civil Aviation Regulations (e.g., EASA, FAA).
- The Aerodrome Certification Process from Application to Granting.
- Key Terminology and Definitions in Aerodrome Standards.
- Legal and Financial Implications of Non-Compliance.
- The Relationship Between Certification and Airport Master Planning.

Unit Two The Aerodrome Manual as a Core Compliance Document

- Purpose and Legal Status of the Aerodrome Manual.
- Structuring the Aerodrome Manual According to Regulatory Requirements.
- Part 1: General Information and Aerodrome Administration.
- Part 2: Aerodrome Dimensions and Related Information.
- Part 3: Particulars of the Aerodrome Services and Facilities.
- Part 4: Aerodrome Operating Procedures.
- Process for Amendment, Review, and Distribution of the Manual.

Unit Three Aerodrome Physical Characteristics and Obstacle Control

- Runway, Taxiway, and Apron Design Standards.
- Aerodrome Markings and Signs.
- Visual Aids for Navigation: Aerodrome Lighting Systems.
- Understanding Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS).
- Conducting Obstacle Surveys and Assessments.
- Managing and Mitigating Wildlife Hazards.
- Pavement Maintenance and Friction Testing Requirements.

Unit Four Implementing a Safety Management System (SMS) at the Aerodrome

- The Four Pillars of SMS: Safety Policy, Safety Risk Management, Safety Assurance, and Safety Promotion.
- Developing a Proactive and Positive Safety Culture.
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Techniques.
- Safety Performance Indicators (SPIs) and Targets for Aerodromes.
- Change Management Procedures within an SMS Framework.
- The Role of the Accountable Executive and Safety Manager.
- Integrating SMS with other Management Systems.

Unit Five Audits, Emergency Preparedness, and Continuous Compliance

- Techniques for Conducting Internal Aerodrome Audits.
- Preparing for and Managing External Regulatory Inspections.
- Developing and Implementing Corrective Action Plans (CAPs).
- Managing Findings and Observations Effectively.
- The Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) and its Link to Certification.
- Testing Emergency Procedures through Drills and Exercises.
- Strategies for Maintaining a State of Continuous Compliance and Readiness.

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:

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

How can an aerodrome's safety culture be measured and improved beyond mere regulatory compliance, and what is the role of leadership in fostering this culture?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic and strategic perspective on aerodrome management, moving far beyond a simple recitation of regulatory clauses. While other programs may focus narrowly on the technical checklist for certification, this training emphasizes the deep integration of compliance, operational excellence, and a proactive safety culture. We focus on the "why" behind the regulations, enabling participants to make informed, risk-based decisions rather than just following procedures mechanically. A key differentiator is our extensive use of complex, real-world case studies that explore the nuances of certification challenges at various types of aerodromes, from major international hubs to regional airports. This practical approach ensures that the learning is not purely theoretical but is directly applicable to the participants' own operational environments. Furthermore, the curriculum is uniquely structured to build leadership capabilities, empowering managers not just to achieve compliance, but to champion a culture of continuous improvement and safety assurance. The course fosters a strategic mindset, teaching participants how to align their aerodrome's safety and compliance objectives with broader business goals, ensuring long-term sustainability and operational resilience.