Aviation Law and Airport Regulatory Compliance Training Course

19 - 23 Oct 2026

Amsterdam

5900 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The global aviation industry operates within one of the most complex and stringent regulatory environments in the world. Navigating this intricate web of international treaties, national laws, and industry standards is critical for ensuring safety, security, and operational efficiency. This comprehensive course provides a deep dive into the legal frameworks governing civil aviation and airport management. As noted by the prominent scholar Paul Stephen Dempsey in works like "Public International Air Law," the foundation of modern aviation regulation lies in international conventions that dictate everything from airspace rights to carrier liability. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is meticulously designed to demystify these complexities. We will explore the roles of key international bodies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and regional authorities like EASA and the FAA. Participants will gain a thorough understanding of airport legal compliance, air carrier liability under the Montreal Convention, and the critical aspects of aviation security (AVSEC) and Safety Management Systems (SMS). The curriculum moves beyond theory, focusing on practical application to address real-world challenges in airport governance, environmental regulations, and commercial aviation contracts, ensuring participants are equipped to manage legal risks and maintain robust compliance programs within their organizations.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airport Managers and Directors.
- Aviation Legal Counsel and In-house Lawyers.
- Regulatory Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Airline Operations and Management Staff.
- Government Officials from Civil Aviation Authorities.
- Airport Safety and Security Managers.
- Aviation Insurance Professionals.
- Air Traffic Control Management.
- Ground Handling Operations Supervisors.
- Aviation Consultants and Advisors.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Airlines and Air Cargo Operators.
- Airport Authorities and Operators.
- Aviation Legal and Consulting Firms.
- Insurance and Reinsurance Companies.
- Governmental bodies and Civil Aviation Authorities.
- Aerospace Manufacturing and Maintenance Organizations.
- Ground Handling and Airport Service Providers.
- International Transportation and Logistics.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Legal and Corporate Affairs Departments.
- Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Departments.
- Operations and Flight Management Departments.
- Safety and Quality Assurance Departments.
- Security and Emergency Response Departments.
- Risk Management and Insurance Departments.
- Procurement and Contracts Departments.
- Corporate Governance and Strategy Departments.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the international legal framework established by the Chicago Convention and ICAO.
- Interpret and apply key provisions of the Montreal and Warsaw Conventions regarding carrier liability.
- Develop robust compliance programs that align with national and international aviation regulations.
- Manage legal risks associated with airport operations, including safety, security, and environmental standards.
- Evaluate the legal implications of air transport agreements and commercial aviation contracts.
- Implement effective Safety Management Systems (SMS) in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- Navigate the complexities of aviation insurance and liability claims.
- Understand the legal framework governing aviation security (AVSEC) and threat mitigation.
- Assess the impact of emerging technologies like drones (UAS) on current aviation law.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to foster a dynamic and interactive learning environment that bridges legal theory with practical application. We reject passive learning in favor of an immersive experience where participants actively engage with the material. The course is built upon a foundation of expert-led instruction, where complex legal doctrines and regulatory frameworks are broken down into understandable components. This is heavily supplemented by the analysis of real-world case studies drawn from landmark aviation legal disputes and compliance failures. Participants will work in collaborative groups on problem-solving exercises, simulating the challenges faced by airport and airline management in navigating regulatory audits and legal issues. Interactive sessions, Q&A panels, and open discussions are integral to each module, encouraging the sharing of diverse experiences and perspectives. Continuous feedback is provided by the instructor to ensure a deep and practical understanding of aviation law and airport compliance, empowering participants to apply their new skills immediately within their professional roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of International Aviation Law

- Introduction to Public International Air Law.
- The Chicago Convention of 1944 and the Freedoms of the Air.
- The Role and Structure of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- Understanding ICAO Annexes and Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).
- The Warsaw System and the Montreal Convention of 1999.
- International Air Transport Association (IATA) Regulations and Influence.
- Jurisdiction over Airspace and Aircraft.

Unit Two: National Regulatory Bodies and Airport Operations

- The Role of National Aviation Authorities (NAAs) like the FAA and EASA.
- Airport Certification and Operational Standards.
- Legal Aspects of Air Traffic Management and Control.
- Airport Zoning Laws and Land Use Regulations.
- Legal Framework for Airport Charges and Economic Regulation.
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Airport Management.
- Compliance with Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine Regulations.

Unit Three: Air Carrier Liability and Passenger Rights

- Legal Framework for Air Carrier Operations and Certification.
- Comprehensive Analysis of Carrier Liability for Passengers, Baggage, and Cargo.
- Understanding Passenger Rights Regulations (e.g., EU Regulation 261/2004).
- Legal Issues in Codesharing and Airline Alliances.
- Aircraft Leasing and Financing Contracts (Dry vs. Wet Lease).
- Aviation Insurance Principles and Claim Management.
- The Legal Process of Aviation Accident Investigation.

Unit Four: Airport Security, Safety, and Environmental Law

- Legal Foundations of Aviation Security (AVSEC).
- Implementing ICAO Annex 17 Standards for Airport Security.
- The Legal Requirements for Safety Management Systems (SMS) under ICAO Annex 19.
- Airport Emergency Response and Crisis Management Legalities.
- Environmental Regulations for Airports, including Noise and Emissions Control.
- Legal Duties Regarding Ground Handling Operations and Ramp Safety.
- Liability for On-Premises Accidents and Incidents at Airports.

Unit Five: Commercial Aviation Law and Emerging Legal Issues

- The Law of Aircraft Sale and Purchase Agreements.
- Legal Aspects of Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Contracts.
- Competition Law and Antitrust Issues in the Aviation Industry.
- Intellectual Property in Aviation Technology.
- The Evolving Legal Landscape for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS/Drones).
- Introduction to Space Law and its implications for Commercial Aviation.
- Future Trends and Challenges in Global Aviation Regulation.

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:

How will the existing international air law frameworks, primarily designed for traditional aircraft, adapt to regulate commercial space tourism and autonomous drone logistics?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical recitation of laws and regulations to focus on their practical, real-world application in high-stakes operational environments. While other programs may provide a general overview, our curriculum is structured to dissect the intricate connections between international treaties, national legislation, and the day-to-day decisions made by airport and airline professionals. We emphasize a case-study-driven approach, analyzing landmark legal precedents and compliance challenges to equip participants with critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The course uniquely integrates modules on emerging legal issues, such as the regulation of unmanned aerial systems and the commercialization of space, ensuring participants are prepared for the future of aviation. Furthermore, the content is designed to be holistic, covering not just air law but also the interconnected domains of airport governance, commercial contracts, environmental compliance, and safety management. This provides a 360-degree legal and regulatory perspective that is essential for effective leadership and risk management in the modern aviation industry, offering a depth of practical insight that is rarely found in other training programs.