Airport Cargo Logistics and Freight Operations Management Training Course

14 - 18 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #AIR8067_269832

Course Introduction / Overview:

The global air cargo industry is a critical engine of international trade, demanding precision, speed, and robust operational management. This course provides a comprehensive exploration of airport cargo logistics and freight operations, designed to equip professionals with the essential skills to navigate this dynamic sector. From the fundamentals of air freight to advanced supply chain strategies, the curriculum covers the entire lifecycle of cargo movement. Drawing upon principles discussed by experts like Michael Sales in his seminal work "Air Cargo Management," this program delves into the practicalities of terminal operations, regulatory compliance, and the integration of modern technology. Participants will gain a deep understanding of the intricate processes that ensure cargo is handled safely, securely, and efficiently. At BIG BEN Training Center, we have structured this course to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, empowering attendees to optimize logistics, mitigate risks, and drive performance within their organizations, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and effective global supply chain.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airport Cargo Operations Managers.
- Freight Forwarding Agents.
- Airline Cargo Sales Executives.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Coordinators.
- Warehouse Supervisors in Aviation.
- Customs Brokerage Staff.
- Ground Handling Agents.
- Aviation Security Personnel.
- Export and Import Managers.
- Procurement and Sourcing Specialists.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Airlines and Air Cargo Carriers.
- Freight Forwarding and Logistics Companies.
- Airport Authorities and Operators.
- Ground Handling Service Providers.
- Express and Courier Service Companies.
- Manufacturing and Retail Industries.
- Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Sectors.
- Governmental bodies including Customs, Border Control, and Civil Aviation Authorities.
- International Trade and Commerce Organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- Cargo and Freight Operations.
- Warehouse and Inventory Management.
- Security and Compliance.
- Sales and Business Development.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Customer Service and Relations.
- Import and Export Operations.
- Ground Operations and Ramp Services.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the complete air cargo supply chain from shipper to consignee.
- Implement best practices for airport cargo terminal and warehouse operations.
- Manage the handling of special cargo, including dangerous goods, perishables, and live animals.
- Navigate complex air freight documentation, including the Air Waybill (AWB).
- Ensure compliance with international and national security regulations like AVSEC.
- Optimize cargo build-up and breakdown processes for maximum efficiency.
- Apply effective customs clearance procedures for imports and exports.
- Evaluate the impact of new technologies such as e-freight on cargo logistics.
- Develop strategies for improving operational performance and reducing costs.
- Manage risk and liability within air freight operations.

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 professional context. We move beyond traditional lectures by incorporating a blended learning approach that includes dynamic presentations, expert-led discussions, and collaborative group activities. A significant portion of the course is dedicated to analyzing real-world case studies, allowing participants to dissect complex operational challenges and develop viable solutions. Interactive workshops and simulation exercises will provide hands-on experience in areas such as cargo documentation, load planning, and compliance checks. Participants will benefit from continuous feedback from the instructor and peers, fostering a rich learning environment. Our approach encourages active participation, critical thinking, and knowledge sharing, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of airport cargo logistics and freight operations. The goal is to empower attendees not just with information, but with the confidence and competence to excel in their roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Introduction to the Air Cargo Industry

- The Role of Air Cargo in Global Trade and Logistics.
- Key Stakeholders in the Air Freight Ecosystem.
- Governing Bodies and International Conventions (IATA, ICAO).
- Fundamentals of Air Cargo Terminology and Concepts.
- Types of Cargo Aircraft and Their Capabilities.
- The Structure of an Airport Cargo Terminal.
- Understanding the Air Cargo Market and its Economic Drivers.

Unit Two Cargo Terminal and Warehouse Operations

- Principles of Efficient Warehouse Layout and Design.
- Cargo Acceptance and Check-in Procedures.

Unit Load Device (ULD) Management, Build-up, and Breakdown.

- Storage and Retrieval Systems for Air Cargo.
- Specialized Handling Equipment and Automation.
- Performance Metrics for Terminal Operations.
- Safety and Occupational Health in the Cargo Environment.

Unit Three Handling of Special Cargo

- Regulations and Procedures for Dangerous Goods (DGR).
- Best Practices for Handling Perishable and Temperature-Sensitive Cargo.
- IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR) and Animal Welfare.
- Protocols for Valuable and Vulnerable Cargo (VUN).
- Managing Heavy and Outsized Shipments.
- Procedures for Handling Human Remains (HUM).
- Documentation and Labeling Requirements for Special Cargo.

Unit Four Air Freight Documentation and Customs Procedures

- Mastering the Air Waybill (AWB) and House Air Waybill (HAWB).
- Understanding e-Freight and the Electronic Air Waybill (e-AWB).
- Essential Shipping Documents for International Trade.
- The Role of Customs Brokers and Authorities.
- Import, Export, and Transit Clearance Processes.
- Tariffs, Duties, and Trade Compliance.
- Navigating Customs Bonded Warehouses and Free Trade Zones.

Unit Five Logistics, Security, and Future Trends

- Integrating Air Cargo within the Broader Supply Chain.
- The Role of Freight Forwarders and Consolidators.
- Air Cargo Security (AVSEC) Programs and Screening Requirements.
- Risk Management and Cargo Insurance Principles.
- Air Cargo Revenue Management and Pricing Strategies.
- The Impact of Technology: AI, IoT, and Blockchain in Air Freight.
- Sustainability Initiatives and the Future of Green Air Logistics.

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 autonomous drone technology and artificial intelligence become more integrated into logistics, how might they fundamentally reshape the physical infrastructure and human roles within airport cargo operations over the next decade?

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

This training course distinguishes itself by focusing on the strategic integration of operational knowledge with forward-thinking management principles. Unlike programs that offer a purely procedural overview, this course challenges participants to think critically about efficiency, security, and profitability across the entire air cargo value chain. We emphasize a holistic perspective, connecting the dots between ground handling, regulatory compliance, supply chain logistics, and emerging technologies. The curriculum is enriched with contemporary case studies that reflect the current challenges and opportunities in the industry, from navigating post-pandemic supply chain disruptions to implementing sustainable practices. Furthermore, the course fosters a deep understanding of the commercial aspects of air freight, including revenue management and market analysis, which are often overlooked. By blending practical, hands-on operational skills with a high-level strategic outlook, this program equips participants not just to perform their current roles effectively, but to become leaders who can drive innovation and adapt to the future of air logistics.