Runway Incursion Prevention and Safety Protocols Training Course



14 - 18 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #AVI9389_270660

Course Introduction / Overview:

This training course provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and mitigating the risks associated with runway incursions and excursions. In an industry where safety is paramount, preventing incidents on the aerodrome surface is a critical priority for airlines, airports, and air navigation service providers. This program delves into the complex interplay of human factors, technology, procedures, and communication that form the bedrock of runway safety. Drawing on principles from leading safety science experts like Sidney Dekker, who in his work "The Field Guide to Understanding 'Human Error'" challenges traditional views on incidents, this course moves beyond blame to explore systemic vulnerabilities. Participants will analyze real-world case studies to understand the chain of events leading to runway safety breakdowns and learn to apply proactive prevention strategies. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this curriculum to equip aviation professionals with the knowledge and skills to enhance situational awareness, improve team coordination, and foster a robust safety culture within their organizations, ultimately contributing to safer skies for everyone.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Air Traffic Controllers.
- Commercial and Private Pilots.
- Airport Operations Managers and Staff.
- Ground Handling Supervisors and Personnel.
- Aviation Safety Managers and Officers.
- Airline Flight Operations Management.
- Regulatory and Compliance Inspectors.
- Airport Emergency Services Personnel.
- Aviation Maintenance Technicians.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Commercial Aviation and Airlines.
- Airport Authorities and Management Bodies.
- Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs).
- Cargo and Logistics Aviation.
- Corporate and Business Aviation.
- Military Aviation and Air Base Operations.
- Governmental Regulatory Bodies and Civil Aviation Authorities.
- Flight Training Organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Flight Operations.
- Air Traffic Control Services.
- Safety and Compliance.
- Airport Operations and Airside Management.
- Ground Handling and Ramp Services.
- Corporate Training and Development.
- Quality Assurance.
- Emergency Response and Planning.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the root causes and contributing factors of runway incursions and excursions.
- Implement ICAO and FAA standards for runway safety management.
- Enhance pilot and controller communication using standard phraseology and protocols.
- Identify and mitigate risks associated with aerodrome hot spots and complex layouts.
- Apply human factors principles to improve situational awareness and decision-making.
- Develop effective training programs for ground vehicle operators on the airfield.
- Contribute to the development and effectiveness of a local Runway Safety Team (RST).
- Conduct preliminary analyses of surface incidents to identify systemic safety gaps.
- Promote a positive and proactive safety culture within their operational environment.
- Utilize threat and error management (TEM) frameworks for runway operations.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive and participant-centered, moving beyond traditional lecture formats to ensure deep learning and practical application. This course utilizes a blended approach that includes expert-led presentations, facilitated group discussions, and in-depth analysis of real-world case studies of runway incursions and safety events. Participants will engage in collaborative workshops and simulation-based scenarios to practice decision-making and communication skills in a controlled environment. Emphasis is placed on peer-to-peer learning, allowing professionals from different aviation domains to share experiences and perspectives. Interactive exercises will focus on identifying latent system failures and developing practical mitigation strategies. Continuous feedback is provided by the instructor to guide learning and reinforce key concepts. This immersive approach ensures that participants not only grasp the theoretical principles of runway safety but are also equipped to apply them effectively in their own operational contexts, driving tangible improvements in safety performance.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Runway Safety Management

- Introduction to Runway Safety and Key Terminology.
- Global Statistics and Trends in Runway Incursions and Excursions.
- The Role of ICAO, FAA, and National Regulatory Bodies.
- Introduction to Safety Management Systems (SMS) in the Airport Environment.
- Understanding the Categories of Runway Incursion Severity.
- The Financial and Reputational Impact of Surface Incidents.
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance Frameworks.

Unit Two: Human Factors and Communication in Aviation

- The "Dirty Dozen" of Human Factors in Runway Safety.
- Situational Awareness for Pilots, Controllers, and Ground Crew.
- Decision-Making Under Pressure and Cognitive Biases.
- Sterile Cockpit and Sterile Tower Communication Protocols.
- Standard ICAO Phraseology and Read-back/Hear-back Requirements.
- Managing Fatigue and Stress in High-Stakes Environments.
- Building a Culture of Effective and Assertive Communication.

Unit Three: Air Traffic Control and Pilot Procedures for Runway Safety

- Runway and Taxiway Markings, Lighting, and Signage.
- Procedures for Runway Crossing, Entering, and Line-Up.
- Managing Operations in Low Visibility Conditions (LVO).
- Identifying and Charting Airport Hot Spots.
- The Role of the Runway Safety Team (RST).
- Coordination between Ground, Tower, and Approach Control.
- Best Practices for Pre-flight Briefings and Taxi Planning.

Unit Four: Ground Vehicle Operations and Airside Safety

- Airside Driving Regulations and Best Practices.
- Vehicle-Aircraft Communication and Right-of-Way Protocols.
- Ensuring Conspicuity of Vehicles and Personnel.
- Managing Construction and Work-in-Progress Areas on the Airfield.
- Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Prevention Programs.
- Training and Certification for Airside Vehicle Operators.
- Coordination between Ground Handling and Air Traffic Control.

Unit Five: Advanced Prevention, Technology, and Incident Response

- Runway Safety Technologies (ASDE-X, Runway Status Lights).
- Threat and Error Management (TEM) Framework Application.
- Proactive Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.
- Surface Incident Investigation and Root Cause Analysis.
- Developing and Implementing a Runway Safety Action Plan.
- Fostering a Just Culture and Effective Safety Reporting System.
- Future Trends and Innovations in Runway Safety Enhancement.

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:

Beyond technology and procedures, how can an organization fundamentally shift its safety culture to proactively prevent runway incursions rather than just reacting to them?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic, systems-thinking approach to runway safety, moving beyond mere procedural compliance. While many programs focus on rules and regulations, this curriculum, inspired by the work of safety scientists, delves into the complex human and organizational factors that underlie surface incidents. We emphasize the "why" behind the procedures, fostering a deep understanding of cognitive biases, decision-making under pressure, and the dynamics of team communication. A key differentiator is our focus on building a proactive and just safety culture, where reporting is encouraged and events are treated as learning opportunities rather than occasions for blame. The curriculum integrates practical case studies from diverse operational environments, allowing participants to analyze real-world failures and successes. Rather than simply presenting technological solutions, we teach participants how to integrate technology, procedures, and human performance into a resilient safety net. This course is designed not just to train, but to transform participants into safety leaders who can champion systemic improvements within their own organizations.