Advanced FIDIC Contracts and Dispute Resolution Training Course

14 - 18 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #CON3509_271956

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course provides an in-depth exploration of the FIDIC suite of contracts, which are the cornerstone of international construction and engineering projects. Navigating the complexities of these contracts is essential for minimizing risk, managing costs, and ensuring project success. This program is meticulously designed to equip participants with the practical skills needed for effective contract administration, claims management, and dispute resolution. As highlighted by the renowned expert Dr. Nael G. Bunni in his seminal work, "The FIDIC Forms of Contract," a thorough understanding of the contractual mechanisms is paramount. This course delves into the critical clauses, procedures, and legal principles underpinning the FIDIC Red, Yellow, and Silver Books, comparing the 1999 and 2017 editions. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to move beyond theoretical knowledge, focusing on real-world application through case studies and interactive sessions. Participants will gain the confidence to manage contractual obligations, prepare and defend claims, and navigate the dispute resolution ladder from the Dispute Adjudication Board (DAB) to arbitration, ensuring they can protect their organization's interests effectively.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Project Managers and Directors.
- Contract Managers and Administrators.
- Commercial Managers and Quantity Surveyors.
- Construction and Engineering Professionals.
- Procurement and Purchasing Managers.
- Corporate Legal Counsel and Lawyers.
- Consultants and Engineers involved in project execution.
- Government officials responsible for public works projects.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Construction and Infrastructure Development.
- Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC).
- Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical sectors.
- Power Generation and Renewable Energy.
- Water and Wastewater Treatment Projects.
- Real Estate and Property Development.
- Transportation including Roads, Railways, and Airports.
- Governmental bodies and Public Works Authorities.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Contracts and Commercial Departments.
- Legal and Compliance Departments.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Management.
- Engineering and Technical Services.
- Finance and Project Controls.
- Planning and Scheduling Departments.
- Risk Management Departments.

Course Offerings:

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

- Interpret the key clauses and risk allocation principles across the FIDIC suite of contracts.
- Differentiate between the 1999 and 2017 editions of the FIDIC Red, Yellow, and Silver Books.
- Effectively manage contract administration duties, including variations, payments, and notices.
- Prepare, submit, and defend contractual claims for time and cost with robust substantiation.
- Understand the role and responsibilities of the Engineer, the Employer, and the Contractor.
- Navigate the multi-tiered dispute resolution process outlined in FIDIC contracts.
- Effectively utilize the Dispute Avoidance/Adjudication Board (DAAB) mechanism.
- Develop strategies for amicable settlement and negotiation to avoid formal disputes.
- Manage contract termination and suspension procedures correctly.
- Apply practical knowledge through real-world case studies and scenarios.

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 their professional roles. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to create a dynamic learning environment. We utilize a blend of expert-led presentations, detailed analysis of FIDIC contract clauses, and interactive group discussions that encourage peer-to-peer learning. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to hands-on workshops and practical exercises where participants will work on real-world case studies involving claims preparation, variation orders, and dispute scenarios. These activities are designed to simulate the challenges faced on actual construction projects. Role-playing exercises will allow participants to practice negotiation and presentation skills for Dispute Adjudication Board (DAB) hearings. Continuous feedback is provided by the instructor, a seasoned industry expert, to help participants refine their understanding and approach. This immersive and practical methodology ensures a deep and lasting comprehension of FIDIC contract management and dispute resolution principles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Introduction to the FIDIC Suite of Contracts

- An overview of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC).
- Understanding the structure and purpose of the FIDIC family of contracts.
- Detailed analysis of the Red Book, Yellow Book, and Silver Book.
- Key principles of risk allocation in FIDIC contracts.
- The roles and responsibilities of the Employer, the Engineer, and the Contractor.
- A comparative overview of the FIDIC 1999 and 2017 editions.
- Understanding the General Conditions, Particular Conditions, and the Letter of Tender.

Unit Two: Contract Administration and Project Management

- Commencement, delays, and suspension of work procedures.
- Managing the Time for Completion and Extension of Time (EOT) clauses.
- Procedures for issuing and valuing Variations and adjustments.
- Understanding testing, commissioning, and taking-over processes.
- Defects Notification Period and performance security obligations.
- Payment procedures, certificates, and handling delayed payments.
- The critical importance of notices and maintaining contemporaneous records.

Unit Three: Managing and Substantiating Claims

- Defining a claim under FIDIC contracts.
- The distinction between Contractor's claims and Employer's claims.
- Strict compliance with notice provisions and time bars.
- Step-by-step process for preparing a robust claim submission.
- Techniques for substantiating claims for cost and time.
- Analyzing concurrent delays and their impact on claims.
- Practical workshop on drafting a claim narrative and assembling supporting documents.

Unit Four: Dispute Resolution and the DAAB Process

- The multi-tiered dispute resolution mechanism in FIDIC 2017.
- The evolution from Dispute Adjudication Board (DAB) to Dispute Avoidance/Adjudication Board (DAAB).
- The process of appointing and operating a DAAB.
- Preparing and presenting a case to the DAAB.
- Understanding the enforceability of DAAB decisions.
- Strategies for amicable settlement and negotiation.
- Case studies on successful and unsuccessful DAAB proceedings.

Unit Five: Termination, Arbitration, and Advanced Topics

- Grounds for termination by the Employer and the Contractor.
- Procedures and financial consequences of contract termination.
- The relationship between the DAAB decision and arbitration.
- An introduction to the arbitration process under FIDIC.
- Drafting arbitration clauses and selecting an arbitral institution.
- Force Majeure and Exceptional Events under FIDIC 2017.
- Final review, course summary, and open Q&A session.

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 global shift towards collaborative contracting, how might the role of the Dispute Avoidance/Adjudication Board (DAAB) evolve beyond a reactive adjudicatory function to a more proactive, integrated project success tool?

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

This course distinguishes itself by focusing intensely on the practical application of FIDIC principles in real-world construction environments. While many courses provide a clause-by-clause overview, our program emphasizes the strategic implementation of these clauses to manage risk, prepare effective claims, and resolve disputes efficiently. We achieve this through a curriculum rich with contemporary case studies drawn from actual international projects, allowing participants to analyze complex scenarios and debate potential outcomes. The course provides a deep comparative analysis of the FIDIC 1999 and 2017 suites, equipping professionals to work on both legacy and new projects with confidence. Furthermore, our methodology prioritizes interactive workshops where participants actively draft notices, build claim files, and simulate DAAB presentations. This hands-on approach bridges the critical gap between theoretical knowledge and practical mastery, ensuring that attendees leave not just with information, but with the skills and strategic insight to navigate the contractual complexities of major engineering and construction projects, thereby protecting their organization's financial and operational interests.