GCC Construction Law and Contract Administration Training Course

14 - 18 Dec 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The construction industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) operates within a unique and complex legal framework, blending civil law traditions with principles of Sharia law. This dynamic environment presents distinct challenges and opportunities for professionals involved in contract administration and project management. This intensive training course is meticulously designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the legal principles, contractual mechanisms, and administrative procedures governing construction projects across the GCC. Participants will delve into the entire project lifecycle, from tendering and contract formation to claims management and dispute resolution. The curriculum draws upon key industry standards and insights from leading authorities like Nael G. Bunni, particularly his influential work on "The FIDIC Forms of Contract," adapting these global best practices to the specific legal and commercial realities of the region. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to empower professionals with the practical skills and legal knowledge necessary to mitigate risks, ensure compliance, and drive project success in this demanding market. This course is an essential toolkit for navigating the intricacies of construction law and contract administration with confidence and expertise.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Project Managers and Directors.
- Contract Administrators and Managers.
- Commercial Managers and Quantity Surveyors.
- Construction and Civil Engineers.
- Procurement and Purchasing Managers.
- Corporate Legal Counsel and Lawyers.
- Government Officials involved in public works projects.
- Project Financiers and Consultants.
- Risk and Compliance Officers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Construction and Engineering.
- Real Estate Development.
- Oil and Gas.
- Infrastructure and Transportation.
- Power and Utilities.
- Governmental agencies and public sector entities.
- Telecommunications.
- Hospitality and Tourism Development.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Legal and Contracts Department.
- Procurement and Supply Chain.
- Engineering and Design.
- Finance and Commercial.
- Operations and Site Management.
- Risk Management and Compliance.
- Business Development.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the legal and regulatory frameworks governing construction in GCC countries.
- Master the principles of contract formation, tendering, and procurement processes.
- Interpret and apply key clauses within standard construction contracts, including FIDIC.
- Develop effective strategies for contract administration and performance monitoring.
- Manage variations, change orders, and extension of time claims proficiently.
- Identify, prepare, and defend against construction claims with robust documentation.
- Navigate different dispute resolution mechanisms, including negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.
- Implement best practices for project close-out and final account settlement.
- Mitigate contractual risks and liabilities throughout the project lifecycle.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning in a real-world context. This course moves beyond traditional lectures by integrating a dynamic blend of expert-led presentations, in-depth case studies derived from actual GCC construction projects, and collaborative group workshops. Participants will actively engage in exercises that simulate contract negotiation, claims preparation, and dispute resolution scenarios. Interactive sessions encourage open dialogue and peer-to-peer learning, allowing attendees to share experiences and solve common challenges. The facilitator will provide continuous feedback and guide discussions to ensure a deep understanding of complex legal and contractual concepts. Emphasis is placed on practical application, with tools and templates provided to aid in daily contract administration tasks. This hands-on, participant-centered approach guarantees a comprehensive learning experience that builds both theoretical knowledge and practical competence in navigating the GCC's construction landscape.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of GCC Construction Law and Legal Systems

- Introduction to the legal systems of the GCC states (Civil Law vs. Sharia Law).
- Sources of law impacting construction projects.
- Key legislative frameworks and building codes in the UAE, KSA, Qatar, and other GCC nations.
- The role of governmental and regulatory bodies in the construction sector.
- Understanding the principle of good faith in contracts.
- Decennial liability and its implications for contractors and engineers.
- Introduction to standard forms of contract used in the region.

Unit Two: Tendering, Procurement, and Contract Formation

- The procurement lifecycle and different tendering procedures.
- Preparing and evaluating tender documentation.
- Letters of Intent (LOI) and their legal standing in the GCC.
- Essential elements of a legally binding construction contract.
- Understanding contract priorities and the hierarchy of documents.
- Common pitfalls in contract negotiation and drafting.
- The role and responsibilities of the Engineer and Employer's Representative.

Unit Three: Administering Construction Contracts and Managing Performance

- Key principles of effective contract administration.
- Managing contractual correspondence, notices, and records.
- Performance monitoring and progress reporting obligations.
- Handling instructions, variations, and change orders.
- Payment mechanisms, certification, and managing cash flow.
- Bonds, guarantees, and insurance requirements in construction contracts.
- Subcontractor nomination, appointment, and management.

Unit Four: Claims Management and Dispute Resolution

- Identifying and formulating construction claims.
- Managing claims for extension of time (EOT) and additional costs.
- The process of claims submission, assessment, and determination.
- Early warning systems and proactive claims avoidance strategies.
- Negotiation and amicable settlement techniques.
- Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): Mediation and Adjudication.
- Arbitration in the GCC: procedures, rules, and enforcement of awards.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics and Contract Close-Out

- Understanding and managing contract termination and suspension.
- Force Majeure and its application under GCC laws.
- Liquidated damages versus penalty clauses in the region.
- Defects liability period and taking-over procedures.
- The process of final account settlement and contract closure.
- Future trends in GCC construction law, including PPP and technology.
- Lessons learned and developing best practices for future projects.

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 digital technologies like BIM and smart contracts become more prevalent, how might they challenge or reshape the traditional legal principles of liability, evidence, and contract interpretation within the established GCC construction law frameworks?

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

This course distinguishes itself by offering a highly specialized and contextualized curriculum focused exclusively on the intricacies of the GCC construction market. Unlike generic international construction law programs, every module is tailored to address the specific legal, cultural, and commercial realities of operating in the Gulf region, integrating the dual influences of civil code and Sharia principles. The program emphasizes practical application over pure theory, utilizing real-world case studies drawn from landmark projects in Dubai, Riyadh, Doha, and other regional hubs. This allows participants to analyze actual contractual disputes and administrative challenges, fostering a deeper, more applicable understanding. Furthermore, the course content is not static; it is continuously updated to reflect the latest legislative changes, court rulings, and industry trends across the GCC. The focus is on building tangible skills in claims preparation, contract negotiation, and risk mitigation that are directly transferable to the participant's professional role, providing a strategic advantage in navigating one of the world's most dynamic and demanding construction environments.