Strategic AML and Financial Crime Prevention Training Course



09 - 13 Nov 2026

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4100 € (Per Person)

Ref: #GRC2673_259517

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's interconnected global economy, the threats posed by money laundering and financial crime are more sophisticated and pervasive than ever. This intensive training course is meticulously designed to equip professionals with the strategic knowledge and practical skills required to combat these illicit activities effectively. Moving beyond basic compliance, the curriculum delves into the intricate typologies of financial crime, the nuances of international regulatory frameworks, and the application of a robust risk-based approach. As highlighted by author Peter Lilley in his seminal work, "Dirty Dealing: The Untold Truth about Global Money Laundering," understanding the criminal mindset and operational methods is crucial for effective prevention. This course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, integrates these core principles with cutting-edge insights into emerging threats like cryptocurrency laundering and trade-based financial crime. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the entire AML/CFT lifecycle, from Customer Due Diligence (CDD) and transaction monitoring to filing Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and managing regulatory inquiries. We provide a holistic learning experience that transforms theoretical knowledge into actionable intelligence, empowering you to protect your organization and uphold financial integrity in a complex regulatory landscape.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- AML and Financial Crime Analysts.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Legal and Regulatory Affairs Advisors.
- Frontline Banking and Financial Services Staff.
- Corporate Governance Professionals.
- Law Enforcement and Government Agency Officials.
- Financial Operations Managers.
- Investment and Asset Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Insurance and Reinsurance Companies.
- Investment and Asset Management Firms.
- Real Estate and High-Value Goods Dealers.
- Legal and Accounting Firms.
- Fintech and Cryptocurrency Exchanges.
- Consulting and Advisory Services.
- Government, Regulatory Bodies, and Financial Intelligence Units.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering.
- Risk Management.
- Internal Audit and Control.
- Legal and Corporate Secretariat.
- Financial Operations and Treasury.
- Client Onboarding and Relationship Management.
- Information Technology and Security.
- Investigations and Corporate Security.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop and implement a comprehensive, risk-based AML and financial crime prevention framework.
- Master the principles of Know Your Customer (KYC), Customer Due Diligence (CDD), and Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD).
- Identify red flags and complex typologies associated with money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Conduct effective transaction monitoring and suspicious activity investigations.
- Understand the international regulatory landscape, including FATF recommendations and key regional directives.
- Manage sanctions screening processes and compliance with international sanctions regimes.
- Prepare and file accurate and effective Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) with regulatory authorities.
- Assess and mitigate emerging financial crime risks related to cryptocurrency and new payment technologies.
- Strengthen internal controls and contribute to a culture of compliance within the organization.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning in a professional context. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment built on real-world application. The course heavily utilizes case studies drawn from actual financial crime investigations and regulatory enforcement actions, allowing participants to analyze complex scenarios and develop critical thinking skills. Interactive group discussions and workshops encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse industry perspectives. Practical exercises, such as risk assessment simulations and SAR drafting workshops, provide hands-on experience with core AML tasks. Our expert instructors facilitate the sessions, providing continuous feedback and guiding participants through complex regulatory requirements and investigative techniques. This blended approach ensures a deep and lasting understanding of strategic AML and financial crime prevention, equipping attendees not just with knowledge, but with the confidence to implement effective compliance programs.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime

- Introduction to money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.
- The three stages of money laundering.
- Global impact of financial crime on economies and societies.
- Key international bodies and standards such as the FATF and the Wolfsberg Group.
- Overview of major national and regional AML/CFT legal frameworks.
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of financial institutions.
- The ethical and reputational risks of non-compliance.

Unit Two: The Core Pillars of an AML Compliance Program

- Developing and implementing a risk-based approach.
- The fundamentals of Know Your Customer (KYC) and customer identification programs (CIP).
- Conducting effective Customer Due Diligence (CDD).
- Triggers and procedures for Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) for high-risk clients.
- Identifying and managing Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs).
- Understanding Ultimate Beneficial Ownership (UBO) structures.
- Ongoing monitoring and periodic review of customer relationships.

Unit Three: Detecting, Investigating, and Reporting Financial Crime

- Principles of effective transaction monitoring systems.
- Identifying red flags and unusual patterns of activity.
- Techniques for investigating suspicious transactions and alerts.
- The process of internal escalation and decision-making.
- Understanding the legal requirements for reporting suspicious activity.
- Drafting and filing effective Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) or Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs).
- Managing post-reporting obligations and law enforcement inquiries.

Unit Four: Advanced Threats and International Sanctions Compliance

- Understanding the mechanics of terrorist financing and its detection.
- Exploring trade-based money laundering (TBML) typologies and red flags.
- Financial crime risks associated with cryptocurrencies and virtual assets.
- The role of new technologies (Fintech and RegTech) in AML.
- Introduction to international sanctions regimes (UN, OFAC, EU).
- Implementing an effective sanctions screening program.
- Managing sanctions alerts and potential violations.

Unit Five: AML Program Management and Future Trends

- The role and responsibilities of the Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO).
- Designing and conducting AML training for staff.
- The importance of independent testing and auditing of the AML program.
- Managing regulatory examinations and interactions.
- Record-keeping and data protection requirements in an AML context.
- The future of AML compliance and emerging regulatory expectations.
- Course review, final assessment, and action planning.

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 financial criminals increasingly leverage emerging technologies like AI and cryptocurrency, how can regulatory frameworks evolve to maintain effectiveness without stifling innovation?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a strategic, forward-looking perspective on financial crime prevention, moving beyond rote memorization of regulations. While other programs may focus solely on compliance checklists, we emphasize the development of critical thinking and analytical skills necessary to anticipate and mitigate evolving threats. Our curriculum is uniquely structured to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, using a rich repository of contemporary case studies that reflect the complexities of modern financial crime, including cryptocurrency laundering and sophisticated trade-based schemes. We focus on the "why" behind the regulations, exploring the methodologies of financial criminals to build a more intuitive and proactive defense. The course content is dynamic, continuously updated to incorporate the latest FATF guidance, regulatory enforcement trends, and technological advancements in RegTech. Participants leave not just as compliant professionals, but as strategic thinkers capable of designing and leading robust, risk-sensitive, and future-proof AML programs that add tangible value to their organizations by protecting both assets and reputation.