Strategic Inventory Control and Supply Chain Management Training Course

02 - 06 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #IM3982_288358

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course provides an in-depth exploration of the critical functions of inventory management and supply chain optimization in today's volatile global market. The curriculum is designed to move beyond theoretical concepts to practical application, equipping participants with the skills to design, implement, and manage a resilient and efficient supply chain. As highlighted by the renowned academic Martin Christopher in his seminal work, "Logistics & Supply Chain Management," the real competition is not between companies but between their supply chains. This course embraces that philosophy, focusing on creating integrated systems that enhance visibility, reduce costs, and improve customer satisfaction. Participants will delve into advanced demand forecasting, strategic procurement, lean inventory principles, and modern logistics operations. BIG BEN Training Center has structured this program to address real-world challenges, from mitigating the bullwhip effect to leveraging technology for predictive analytics. By mastering these principles, attendees will be empowered to transform their organization's supply chain into a significant competitive advantage, ensuring agility and responsiveness in the face of uncertainty.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Supply Chain Managers.
- Inventory Planners and Analysts.
- Logistics and Distribution Managers.
- Procurement and Purchasing Professionals.
- Operations Managers.
- Warehouse Supervisors and Managers.
- Demand Planners.
- Materials Managers.
- Professionals seeking to transition into a supply chain management role.
- Business owners and entrepreneurs looking to optimize their operations.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and E-commerce.
- Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG).
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Automotive and Aerospace.
- Third-Party Logistics (3PL) and Freight Forwarding.
- Construction and Engineering.
- Technology and Electronics.
- Governmental agencies and public sector organizations.
- Food and Beverage.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain Management.
- Logistics and Distribution.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Warehousing and Inventory Control.
- Operations Management.
- Production Planning.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Strategic Planning.
- Customer Service and Order Fulfillment.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop robust inventory control systems using techniques like ABC analysis and cycle counting.
- Implement advanced demand forecasting models to improve accuracy and reduce uncertainty.
- Master Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) and safety stock calculations to optimize inventory levels.
- Analyze and improve warehouse operations, including layout, material handling, and WMS utilization.
- Formulate effective procurement and supplier relationship management (SRM) strategies.
- Design and manage efficient logistics and transportation networks.
- Identify, assess, and mitigate risks throughout the supply chain.
- Apply lean and agile principles to create a more responsive and cost-effective supply chain.
- Utilize key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure and enhance supply chain performance.
- Evaluate emerging technologies like AI and blockchain for supply chain applications.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology employed by 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 believe in an experiential learning approach, moving beyond traditional lectures to foster deep understanding and skill development. The course incorporates a blend of expert-led presentations, real-world case study analyses, and interactive group discussions where participants can share experiences and solve complex problems collaboratively. Practical workshops and simulation exercises will be used to demonstrate key concepts such as demand forecasting, inventory optimization, and network design. Participants will work in teams on projects that mirror real-life supply chain challenges, encouraging innovative thinking and strategic planning. Continuous feedback is provided by the instructor to guide learning and ensure all objectives are met. This dynamic and immersive learning environment ensures that attendees not only grasp the theoretical foundations but also build the confidence and competence to drive tangible improvements within their organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Modern Supply Chain and Inventory Management

- Introduction to supply chain management concepts.
- The strategic role of inventory in the supply chain.
- Understanding the trade-offs between cost and service levels.
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) for supply chain excellence.
- Mapping the end-to-end supply chain process.
- The financial impact of inventory on the balance sheet.
- Exploring the bullwhip effect and its mitigation strategies.

Unit Two: Strategic Inventory Control and Management Techniques

- ABC analysis for inventory categorization and prioritization.
- Implementing effective cycle counting programs for inventory accuracy.
- Calculating and applying the Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) model.
- Determining optimal safety stock and reorder points.
- Just-in-Time (JIT) and lean inventory principles.
- Strategies for managing slow-moving and obsolete stock (SLOB).
- Vendor-Managed Inventory (VMI) and consignment stock models.

Unit Three: Demand Forecasting, Planning, and Strategic Sourcing

- Qualitative and quantitative demand forecasting methods.
- Time-series analysis and causal forecasting models.
- Measuring forecast accuracy (MAPE, MAD, MSE).
- Sales and Operations Planning (S&OP) process integration.
- Developing a strategic procurement and sourcing strategy.
- Supplier evaluation, selection, and performance management.
- Effective negotiation tactics for procurement professionals.

Unit Four: Warehouse and Logistics Optimization

- Principles of efficient warehouse layout and design.
- Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) functionality and selection.
- Optimizing receiving, put-away, picking, and shipping processes.
- Transportation management and mode selection strategies.
- Route planning and network optimization fundamentals.
- The role of Third-Party Logistics (3PL) providers.
- Introduction to reverse logistics and returns management.

Unit Five: Advanced Supply Chain Strategies and Future Trends

- Supply chain risk identification, assessment, and mitigation.
- Building resilient and agile supply chains.
- Sustainable and green supply chain management practices.
- The impact of technology: AI, IoT, and blockchain in SCM.
- Leveraging data analytics for predictive insights.
- Global logistics and international trade considerations.
- Developing a continuous improvement culture in the supply chain.

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:

In an era of increasing global disruptions, how can a supply chain be designed for both maximum efficiency and ultimate resilience?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic and strategic perspective on supply chain and inventory management, moving beyond a narrow focus on operational tools. While many programs concentrate solely on the "how" of inventory calculations, this training emphasizes the "why" behind strategic decisions, linking inventory policy directly to corporate financial performance and competitive strategy. We delve deeply into the critical balance between lean efficiency and agile resilience, a crucial duality often overlooked in standard training. The curriculum is built around real-world case studies that reflect contemporary challenges, such as geopolitical disruptions, demand volatility, and sustainability pressures. Rather than just presenting theories, we facilitate interactive simulations and problem-solving workshops that compel participants to apply concepts in a dynamic environment. The focus on risk mitigation, advanced analytics, and future-proofing the supply chain with emerging technologies provides a forward-looking approach, ensuring the skills learned are not only relevant today but will also provide a strategic advantage for years to come.