Strategic Materials Management and Inventory Control Training Course

30 Nov - 04 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #IM5306_288239

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course provides an in-depth exploration of the principles and practices essential for effective materials management and achieving high levels of stock accuracy. In today's competitive global market, optimizing inventory is no longer just an operational task but a strategic imperative that directly impacts profitability and customer satisfaction. This program is designed to equip participants with the skills to manage the flow of materials from procurement to dispatch, ensuring the right materials are available at the right time, in the right quantity, and at the right cost. Drawing upon established theories from experts like Richard J. Tersine, author of "Principles of Inventory and Materials Management," the course bridges the gap between academic concepts and real-world application. Participants will delve into advanced inventory control techniques, modern warehousing practices, and data-driven decision-making processes. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to empower professionals to reduce carrying costs, minimize stockouts, and improve overall supply chain efficiency, transforming the materials management function into a source of competitive advantage.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Materials Managers and Planners.
- Inventory Controllers and Analysts.
- Supply Chain and Logistics Professionals.
- Warehouse and Storeroom Supervisors.
- Procurement and Purchasing Officers.
- Operations Managers.
- Production Planners.
- Finance professionals involved in inventory valuation.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Logistics and Distribution Services.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Construction and Engineering.
- Aerospace and Automotive.
- Governmental agencies and public sector organizations.
- Oil and Gas.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain Management.
- Logistics and Distribution.
- Warehousing and Stores.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Operations and Production.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Planning and Control.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a strategic framework for materials management aligned with organizational goals.
- Implement ABC analysis and other classification techniques for effective inventory prioritization.
- Apply quantitative inventory models like Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) to optimize ordering decisions.
- Master cycle counting and physical inventory procedures to ensure high inventory record accuracy.
- Design and manage efficient warehouse receiving, storage, and issuing processes.
- Analyze and resolve inventory discrepancies to identify root causes of error.
- Utilize demand forecasting techniques to predict future material requirements.
- Calculate and manage safety stock levels to buffer against supply chain uncertainty.
- Evaluate inventory performance using key metrics like turnover ratio and service level.
- Integrate materials management with other business functions like procurement and finance.

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 the workplace. This course moves beyond traditional lectures, employing a blended learning approach that includes expert-led presentations, real-world case study analysis, and collaborative group discussions. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises and simulations that replicate common challenges in materials management and inventory control, allowing them to test different strategies in a risk-free environment. Interactive workshops will focus on problem-solving, where attendees can share their own professional experiences and learn from the diverse perspectives of their peers. Our experienced instructors facilitate a dynamic learning environment, providing continuous feedback and personalized coaching. The program emphasizes the practical application of theories and models, ensuring that every concept is linked to tangible business outcomes. This participant-centered approach guarantees a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter and builds the confidence needed to implement effective inventory strategies.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Fundamentals of Materials Management and Supply Chain

- The Strategic Role of Materials Management in the Organization.
- Core Objectives: Minimizing Cost and Maximizing Service.
- Understanding the Complete Materials Flow Cycle.
- Key Terminology in Inventory and Materials Management.
- The Financial Impact of Inventory on the Balance Sheet.
- Integrating Materials Management with Procurement and Logistics.
- Challenges in Modern Materials Management.

Unit Two: Inventory Classification and Control Models

- ABC Analysis for Inventory Prioritization.
- Other Classification Methods (VED, FSN, SDE).
- The Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) Model and its Assumptions.
- Calculating Reorder Points (ROP) and Lead Time.
- Just-in-Time (JIT) Principles and Implementation.
- Materials Requirement Planning (MRP) and MRP II Systems.
- Comparing Perpetual and Periodic Inventory Systems.

Unit Three: Warehouse and Storeroom Operations Management

- Optimizing Warehouse Layout and Space Utilization.
- Best Practices for Receiving and Inspection of Materials.
- Effective Storage and Material Handling Systems.
- The Goods Issuing Process and Control Mechanisms.
- Implementing a Secure and Organized Storeroom.
- Health and Safety in Warehouse Operations.
- Role of Technology: Barcoding, RFID, and Warehouse Management Systems (WMS).

Unit Four: Achieving and Maintaining Inventory Accuracy

- The Importance of Inventory Record Accuracy.
- Designing and Implementing a Cycle Counting Program.
- Planning and Executing a Full Physical Inventory Count.
- Investigating and Reconciling Stock Discrepancies.
- Root Cause Analysis for Inventory Errors.
- Implementing Controls to Prevent Future Inaccuracies.
- The Role of ERP Systems in Maintaining Data Integrity.

Unit Five: Advanced Inventory Strategy and Performance Measurement

- Principles of Demand Forecasting and Planning.
- Calculating and Optimizing Safety Stock Levels.
- Managing Slow-Moving and Obsolete Stock (SLOB).
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Inventory Management.
- Measuring Inventory Turnover, Fill Rate, and Stockout Costs.
- Supplier Relationship Management and its Impact on Inventory.
- Future Trends in Materials Management and Inventory Control.

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 supply chain volatility, how can traditional inventory models like EOQ be adapted to remain effective, or should they be replaced entirely by more agile, data-driven approaches?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond theoretical knowledge to a deep, strategic understanding of materials and inventory as critical business assets. While many programs focus solely on the mechanics of counting and ordering, this curriculum emphasizes the integration of materials management with the organization's core financial and operational strategies. We explore the "why" behind the "how," enabling participants to not just follow procedures but to design, implement, and continuously improve inventory systems. The program uniquely balances quantitative control models with the practical realities of warehouse operations and the human factors that influence accuracy. Through a blend of case studies from diverse industries and hands-on problem-solving workshops, participants learn to diagnose systemic issues rather than just treating symptoms. The focus is on building analytical and decision-making skills, empowering attendees to develop robust inventory policies that enhance resilience, reduce costs, and drive a competitive advantage in a volatile market. It is a holistic journey from operational task execution to strategic supply chain leadership.