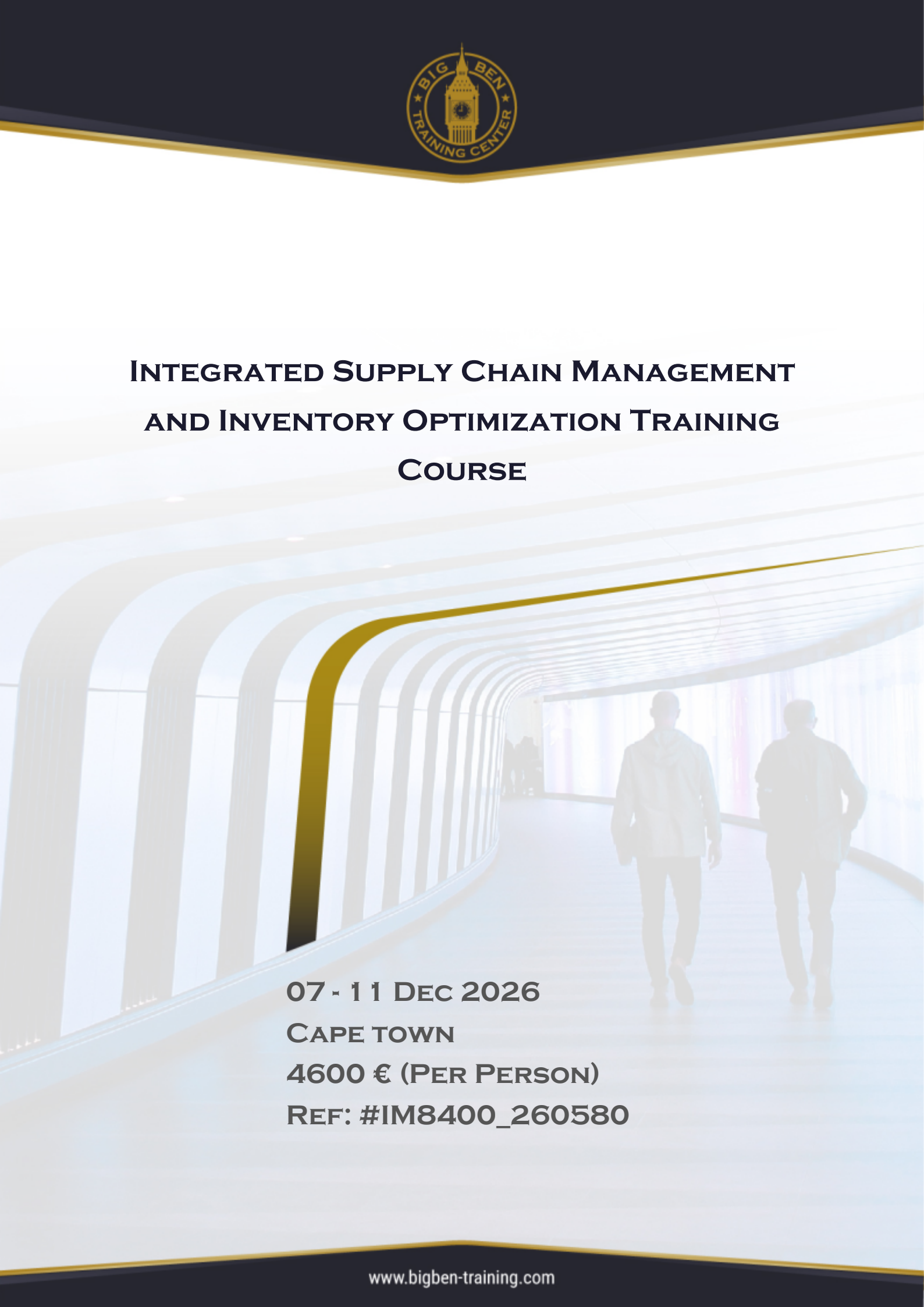
Integrated Supply Chain Management and Inventory Optimization Training Course



07 - 11 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #IM8400_260580

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive program, delivered by BIG BEN Training Center, is designed to elevate your understanding and application of modern supply chain and inventory practices. In today's competitive and rapidly evolving global marketplace, businesses require more than just efficiency; they need resilience, agility, and precise control over their inventory. This training course is specifically crafted to provide a deep dive into the strategic integration of supply chain functions and the advanced techniques for inventory optimization. Participants will explore the interconnectedness of logistics, procurement, manufacturing, and distribution, learning how to synchronize these elements to minimize costs, maximize customer service, and build a competitive infrastructure. We will cover core concepts, including demand forecasting, warehousing, and transportation, all through the lens of maximizing operational effectiveness. The course draws on influential academic work in the field, such as Supply Chain Management: Strategy, Planning, and Operation by world-renowned author Chopra and Meindl. Understanding the principles outlined by Chopra and Meindl is critical to mastering contemporary Supply Chain Management. The curriculum moves beyond basic stock keeping to sophisticated models like Just-In-Time (JIT) and Vendor-Managed Inventory (VMI), leveraging data analytics for proactive decision-making. By applying a holistic approach, BIG BEN Training Center ensures participants gain the practical skills needed to drive process improvement, enhance supply chain resilience, and achieve significant cost reduction strategies in their organizations.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Supply Chain Managers and Directors who oversee logistics and operations.
- Inventory Planners and Analysts responsible for stock level control.
- Procurement and Sourcing Specialists managing supplier relationships.
- Operations Managers and Supervisors seeking process improvement.
- Warehouse and Distribution Center Managers focusing on efficiency.
- Financial Analysts and Controllers interested in working capital optimization.
- Project Managers leading enterprise resource planning (ERP) implementations.
- Consultants specializing in operations and supply chain strategy.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Production, including high-volume and custom-order sectors.
- Retail and E-commerce, focusing on rapid fulfillment and omni-channel inventory.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare, with emphasis on strict regulatory compliance.
- Automotive and Aerospace, requiring complex supply chain coordination.
- Consumer Goods (FMCG), dealing with high-velocity logistics and perishability.
- Government Agencies and Equivalents, including defense, municipal services, and public utility organizations managing large, complex procurement and asset stocks.
- Logistics, Transportation, and Third-Party Logistics (3PL) providers.
- Energy and Utilities, managing critical maintenance and infrastructure spare parts.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain Management Department, for overall coordination and strategy.
- Operations and Production Department, for optimizing make processes.
- Logistics and Transportation Department, for movement and network design.
- Procurement and Purchasing Department, for strategic sourcing and vendor management.
- Warehousing and Distribution Department, for physical stock control and fulfillment.
- Finance and Accounting Department, for cost control and working capital management.
- Sales and Marketing Department, for accurate demand forecasting and service level agreements.
- Information Technology (IT) Department, for ERP and supply chain analytics system implementation.

Course Offerings:

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

- Design and implement an integrated supply chain network strategy for improved efficiency.
- Apply advanced demand forecasting techniques to enhance planning and accuracy.
- Utilize ABC analysis and other inventory categorization methods to prioritize stock management efforts.
- Determine optimal inventory levels using models like Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) and Reorder Point (ROP).
- Develop effective inventory control systems and maintain high inventory accuracy.
- Manage supply chain risk and build resilience against market disruptions and unforeseen events.
- Evaluate and select appropriate warehousing and material handling technology for optimized flow.
- Implement Just-In-Time (JIT), Lean principles, and Vendor-Managed Inventory (VMI) to reduce working capital.
- Leverage supply chain analytics to measure performance, identify bottlenecks, and drive process improvement.
- Negotiate and manage strategic supplier relationships for procurement cost reduction strategies.

Course Methodology:

This highly interactive and professional training course employs a dynamic mix of teaching and learning methods designed for practical, real-world applications. The BIG BEN Training Center uses a methodology focused on active participation, ensuring deep comprehension of Integrated Supply Chain Management and Inventory Optimization. The course incorporates hands-on, practical examples and detailed case studies drawn from global industries, allowing participants to analyze complex challenges and formulate actionable solutions. Teamwork and collaborative problem-solving activities are central to the learning process, simulating cross-functional scenarios in procurement, logistics, and warehousing to foster skills in supply chain coordination and risk management. Interactive sessions, guided by our expert instructors, include group discussions on demand forecasting and inventory control systems. Participants will use data-driven approaches to practice key concepts like ABC analysis and safety stock calculation. Continuous feedback is provided on exercises and team performance to solidify learning and enable immediate application of new skills. The combination of structured lectures, practical application, and peer collaboration ensures a comprehensive and impactful learning experience focused on delivering cost reduction strategies and superior supply chain resilience.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Integrated Supply Chain and Inventory Control

- Supply Chain Management fundamentals and its strategic importance.
- The role of inventory in the supply chain and its impact on financial performance.
- Key supply chain drivers: facilities, inventory, transportation, information, sourcing, and pricing.
- Understanding total logistics costs and the various types of inventories.
- Introduction to the Supply Chain Operations Reference (SCOR) model.
- Measuring supply chain performance using key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Building the business case for supply chain integration and optimization.

Unit Two: Demand Forecasting and Strategic Inventory Planning

- Principles of accurate demand planning and forecasting techniques.
- Quantitative forecasting methods, including time series and causal models.
- Qualitative forecasting methods and consensus planning through Sales and Operations Planning (S&OP).
- Inventory categorization and segmentation: ABC, VED, and FSN analysis.
- Determining optimal service levels and the trade-off with inventory holding costs.
- Calculating safety stock and buffer stock to manage demand and lead time uncertainty.
- Implementing a robust inventory policy and review system (e.g., continuous vs. periodic).

Unit Three: Inventory Replenishment Models and Control Systems

- The Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) model and its practical application.
- Calculating Reorder Points (ROP) and managing lead time variations.
- Material Requirements Planning (MRP) and Distribution Requirements Planning (DRP) in a modern ERP environment.
- Advanced inventory models: lot sizing, quantity discounts, and single-period models (Newsvendor).
- Methods for achieving high inventory accuracy: cycle counting and physical inventory.
- Managing slow-moving, obsolete, and excess (SLOBE) inventory.
- The impact of digitalization and IoT on inventory visibility and control.

Unit Four: Logistics, Warehousing, and Process Improvement

- Strategic network design: facility location, capacity, and distribution strategies.
- Principles of efficient warehouse operations and layout optimization.
- Material handling systems and automation in modern warehousing.
- Fundamentals of transportation management and optimizing freight costs.
- Lean principles in the supply chain: minimizing waste and maximizing flow.
- Implementing Just-In-Time (JIT) and Kanban systems for inventory reduction.
- Introduction to Vendor-Managed Inventory (VMI) and Collaborative Planning, Forecasting, and Replenishment (CPFR).

Unit Five: Risk, Resilience, and Advanced Supply Chain Strategies

- Identifying and mitigating supply chain risks, including geopolitical and natural disaster threats.
- Strategies for building supply chain resilience and agility.
- Sustainable supply chain management and ethical sourcing practices.
- Strategic procurement and managing supplier relationships (SRM).
- Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) analysis in purchasing and sourcing decisions.
- Reverse logistics and managing returns and product recovery.
- Future trends: The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in inventory and supply chain analytics.

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:

Given the inherent tension between maximizing customer service (high inventory) and minimizing cost (low inventory), how can a business analytically determine the precise service level that maximizes its overall profitability and supply chain resilience in a volatile market?

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

This Integrated Supply Chain Management and Inventory Optimization Training Course is distinguished by its unique focus on synthesis rather than simple mechanics. Most programs treat supply chain and inventory as separate subjects, but BIG BEN Training Center brings them together to reflect real-world operational challenges. The course places a heavy emphasis on strategic decision-making and data-driven analytics, moving participants beyond basic stock replenishment to master sophisticated methods for inventory optimization and cost reduction strategies. A key feature is the inclusion of advanced, real-world case studies that challenge participants to apply complex models like EOQ and safety stock calculation in the context of global supply chain risk management. Instead of just outlining theoretical concepts, we focus on process improvement using Lean and JIT methodologies and on building supply chain resilience in the face of modern disruptions. By incorporating the strategic frameworks of academic thought leaders like Chopra and Meindl, the curriculum maintains academic rigor while remaining intensely practical. This training course is designed to create true supply chain professionals who can lead cross-functional integration, leverage advanced supply chain analytics, and deliver tangible results in efficiency and working capital management.