International Maritime Law and Shipping Contracts Training Course



02 - 06 Nov 2026

Geneva

5900 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The global maritime industry is the backbone of international trade, a complex domain governed by a sophisticated web of laws, conventions, and commercial practices. Navigating this environment requires a deep understanding of both legal principles and operational realities. This intensive training course is meticulously designed to provide a comprehensive A-to-Z exploration of maritime law and the management of shipping contracts. As noted by the distinguished academic Martin Davies, the field is constantly evolving, demanding continuous professional development. This program delves into the core tenets discussed in seminal works like "Scrutton on Charterparties and Bills of Lading," offering participants a robust legal and commercial foundation. From understanding the nuances of charterparty agreements and bills of lading to managing marine insurance and resolving complex disputes, this course equips professionals with the essential skills for success. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to bridge the gap between abstract legal theory and the practical, day-to-day challenges faced in the shipping world, ensuring participants can confidently manage risk and optimize contractual performance in their maritime operations.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Maritime Lawyers and In-house Counsel.
- Shipping Company Executives and Managers.
- Chartering Managers and Shipbrokers.
- Port and Terminal Operations Managers.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Professionals.
- Marine Insurance Underwriters and Claims Handlers.
- Freight Forwarders and NVOCC Operators.
- Commodity Traders and Trade Finance Specialists.
- Government Officials from Maritime Authorities and Customs.
- Arbitrators and Mediators specializing in maritime disputes.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Shipping and Maritime Transport.
- International Trade and Commerce.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- Oil, Gas, and Energy.
- Marine Insurance and Reinsurance.
- Port and Terminal Operations.
- Shipbuilding and Repair.
- Banking and Trade Finance.
- Governmental and Regulatory Bodies.
- Legal and Arbitration Services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Legal and Compliance Department.
- Commercial and Chartering Department.
- Operations and Fleet Management Department.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Department.
- Insurance and Risk Management Department.
- Procurement and Contracts Department.
- Trade Finance and Treasury Department.
- Claims and Demurrage Department.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the legal framework governing the international carriage of goods by sea.
- Draft, review, and negotiate various types of charterparty agreements effectively.
- Interpret the complex clauses within bills of lading and sea waybills.
- Manage and mitigate legal and commercial risks in shipping operations.
- Handle maritime claims related to cargo loss, damage, and delay with proficiency.
- Understand the principles of marine insurance, P&I Clubs, and general average.
- Navigate the procedures for maritime dispute resolution, including arbitration and litigation.
- Apply knowledge of international conventions like the Hague-Visby and Rotterdam Rules.
- Evaluate liabilities and responsibilities of shipowners, charterers, and cargo interests.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to foster a dynamic and immersive learning experience that goes beyond traditional lectures. This course emphasizes a participant-centered approach, combining expert-led instruction with interactive and practical exercises. A cornerstone of our method is the extensive use of real-world case studies drawn from landmark maritime court rulings and arbitration awards, allowing participants to analyze complex legal scenarios and understand their commercial implications. Interactive group workshops will be conducted to dissect and draft key clauses from shipping contracts, such as charterparties and bills of lading. Role-playing sessions will simulate contract negotiations and dispute resolution proceedings, providing a safe environment to practice and refine critical skills. The program encourages active participation through open discussions, Q&A sessions, and collaborative problem-solving activities. Continuous feedback from the instructor ensures that participants can grasp complex concepts and apply them directly to their professional roles, transforming theoretical knowledge into tangible, actionable expertise.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of International Maritime Law

- Introduction to Maritime Law and its Sources.
- The Role of International Conventions in Shipping.
- An Overview of the Hague, Hague-Visby, Hamburg, and Rotterdam Rules.
- Jurisdiction in Maritime Claims and Admiralty Law Principles.
- The Concept of Maritime Liens and Ship Mortgages.
- Understanding the Roles of Key Industry Bodies like IMO and BIMCO.
- Public International Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Unit Two: Contracts of Carriage and Bills of Lading

- The Legal Nature of the Contract of Carriage.
- Functions and Types of Bills of Lading.
- Analyzing Key Clauses in a Bill of Lading.
- Carrier's Obligations and Immunities.
- Electronic Bills of Lading and Digitalization in Shipping.
- Sea Waybills and Other Transport Documents.
- Issues of Mis delivery and Fraudulent Use of Documents.

Unit Three: Charterparty Agreements in Detail

- Distinguishing Between Voyage, Time, and Bareboat Charters.
- Analysis of Standard Charterparty Forms (e.g., GENCON, NYPE).
- The Shipowner's Seaworthiness Obligation.
- Understanding Laytime and Demurrage Calculations.
- Safe Port and Safe Berth Warranties.
- Clauses on Hire, Off-hire, and Withdrawal.
- Performance Claims and Speed and Consumption Disputes.

Unit Four: Maritime Liabilities, Insurance, and Claims

- Principles of Marine Insurance and the Role of P&I Clubs.
- Handling Cargo Claims for Loss, Damage, and Shortage.
- The Law of General Average and Salvage.
- Understanding Collision Liability and Limitation of Liability.
- The Process of Ship Arrest and Securing Maritime Claims.
- Towage and Pilotage Liabilities.
- Environmental Liabilities and Pollution (MARPOL).

Unit Five: Maritime Dispute Resolution and Contemporary Issues

- Choosing Between Litigation and Arbitration for Maritime Disputes.
- Drafting Effective Arbitration Clauses in Shipping Contracts.
- The Process of Maritime Arbitration (e.g., LMAA Rules).
- Enforcement of Maritime Judgments and Arbitral Awards.
- The Impact of Sanctions and Geopolitics on Shipping Contracts.
- Decarbonization Regulations (CII, EEXI) and their Contractual Impact.
- Cybersecurity Risks and Legal Implications in the Maritime Sector.

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 digitalization and autonomous shipping, how might traditional principles of maritime liability and contract law need to adapt?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical recitation of legal statutes to immerse participants in the commercial realities of the maritime industry. While other programs may focus narrowly on legal doctrine, our curriculum is built upon a foundation of practical application, using a case-study methodology that dissects real-world disputes and contractual challenges. We bridge the critical gap between the legal department and the chartering desk, ensuring that legal principles are always contextualized within their operational and financial impact. Furthermore, the course content is dynamically updated to address the most pressing contemporary issues facing the industry, from the contractual implications of decarbonization regulations like CII and EEXI to the emerging legal challenges of cybersecurity and sanctions compliance. The focus is not just on what the law is, but on how to strategically apply it to mitigate risk, resolve disputes efficiently, and create robust, commercially sound shipping contracts. This forward-looking, commercially-astute approach provides a depth of understanding and a set of practical skills that are immediately applicable and highly valuable in today's complex maritime environment.