Construction Law and Dispute Avoidance for Managers Training Course



02 - 06 Nov 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course is designed to equip project managers and construction professionals with the essential legal knowledge and strategic skills to navigate the complex landscape of construction law and proactively prevent disputes. In an industry where conflicts can lead to significant delays and cost overruns, mastering dispute avoidance is a critical competency. This program delves into the entire project lifecycle, from contract formation and administration to claims management and resolution. Drawing on principles outlined by leading experts like John Adriaanse in his seminal work "Construction Contract Law," the course emphasizes practical application over theoretical knowledge. Participants will learn to identify potential legal risks, interpret complex contractual clauses, and implement effective communication and documentation strategies to safeguard their projects. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to bridge the gap between project management and legal expertise, empowering attendees to lead their projects with confidence, minimize liability, and foster collaborative environments that are less prone to conflict, ultimately ensuring successful project delivery on time and within budget.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Project Managers.
- Construction Managers.
- Contract Administrators and Managers.
- Quantity Surveyors.
- Site Managers and Engineers.
- Commercial Managers.
- Procurement and Purchasing Managers.
- Legal Advisors and Corporate Counsel.
- Project Owners and Developers.
- Consultants and Architects.
- Government officials involved in public works projects.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Construction and Engineering.
- Real Estate Development.
- Infrastructure and Transportation.
- Oil, Gas, and Energy.
- Power and Utilities.
- Telecommunications.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Projects.
- Governmental agencies and public sector entities.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Legal and Compliance Departments.
- Procurement and Contracts Departments.
- Engineering and Design Departments.
- Operations and Site Management.
- Finance and Commercial Departments.
- Risk Management Departments.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze and interpret key clauses in standard construction contracts like FIDIC and NEC.
- Develop robust contract administration and documentation systems.
- Identify early warning signs of potential disputes and implement proactive avoidance strategies.
- Effectively manage change orders, variations, and extension of time claims.
- Prepare and respond to construction claims with clarity and precision.
- Understand the principles and procedures of various dispute resolution methods, including mediation and arbitration.
- Mitigate legal risks associated with project delays, defects, and payment issues.
- Enhance negotiation skills for resolving conflicts before they escalate.
- Ensure compliance with relevant health, safety, and environmental regulations.
- Lead project teams with a strong understanding of their legal rights and obligations.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning to real-world scenarios. This course moves beyond traditional lectures by incorporating a blended learning approach. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to analyzing real-world case studies of construction disputes, allowing participants to dissect complex situations and debate potential strategies in a controlled environment. Interactive group discussions and workshops will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse experiences. Role-playing exercises will simulate contract negotiations and dispute resolution meetings, providing a safe space to practice and refine critical communication and negotiation skills. Our expert instructors facilitate these sessions, providing personalized feedback and guiding participants toward best-practice solutions. The program emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning, equipping attendees not just with knowledge of construction law, but with the practical tools and confidence to prevent and manage disputes effectively throughout the project lifecycle.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Construction Law and Contracts

- Introduction to the legal framework of the construction industry.
- Key legal principles governing construction projects.
- Common types of construction contracts (Lump Sum, Cost-Plus, Design-Build).
- Understanding standard forms of contract (FIDIC, NEC, JCT).
- The roles and legal responsibilities of key parties (Owner, Contractor, Engineer).
- Contract formation, letters of intent, and pre-contractual liability.
- Essential elements of a legally binding construction agreement.

Unit Two: Proactive Contract Administration and Management

- The critical role of the contract administrator.
- Establishing effective project documentation and record-keeping systems.
- Managing notices, instructions, and official communications.
- Interpreting and applying contract clauses in daily operations.
- Handling payment procedures, certification, and payment disputes.
- Strategies for managing subcontractors and suppliers effectively.
- Understanding bonds, guarantees, and insurance in construction.

Unit Three: Managing Claims, Changes, and Delays

- Identifying and managing scope changes and variation orders.
- The legal basis for construction claims (delay, disruption, acceleration).
- Procedures for submitting and evaluating extension of time (EOT) claims.
- Calculating and substantiating claims for additional costs.
- Defending against unsubstantiated or exaggerated claims.
- The importance of contemporaneous records in claim management.
- Understanding liquidated damages and penalty clauses.

Unit Four: Strategic Dispute Avoidance Techniques

- Developing a project-wide dispute avoidance culture.
- Early warning systems and risk identification workshops.
- Effective communication and negotiation strategies for conflict prevention.
- The role of Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Boards (DAABs).
- Partnering and alliancing as collaborative contracting models.
- Conducting regular and structured project review meetings.
- Techniques for resolving issues at the lowest possible level.

Unit Five: Formal Dispute Resolution Processes

- Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in construction.
- Mediation: Principles, process, and practical application.
- Adjudication: A faster route to a binding decision.
- Arbitration: Procedures, rules, and enforcement of awards.
- Litigation: The process and implications of going to court.
- Selecting the appropriate dispute resolution method for the situation.
- Preparing for and participating in formal resolution proceedings.

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 industry driven by tight deadlines and budgets, how can project managers balance strict contractual compliance with the practical need for agile problem-solving to prevent disputes?

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

This training course distinguishes itself by focusing intensely on proactive dispute avoidance rather than merely reactive dispute resolution. While many programs concentrate on the mechanics of arbitration or litigation after a conflict has already arisen, our curriculum is engineered to equip project managers with the foresight and tools to prevent disputes from ever escalating. We emphasize the development of a 'legal-commercial awareness' that is integrated into daily project management activities. The course content is built around practical, real-world case studies, moving beyond theoretical legal jargon to explore the nuanced decisions managers face on-site and in meetings. It provides a unique blend of legal principles and pragmatic management strategies, teaching participants not just what the contract says, but how to administer it in a way that fosters collaboration and mitigates risk. The focus is on building robust systems for communication, documentation, and early issue identification, transforming the contract from a potential source of conflict into a framework for shared success and project certainty.