Effective Inventory Optimization and Stock Management Training Course

02 - 06 Nov 2026

Vienna

5800 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

Effective inventory optimization is the cornerstone of a resilient and profitable supply chain, acting as the critical balancing point between customer satisfaction and operational cost-efficiency. This comprehensive course is designed to transform your understanding of stock control from a reactive necessity into a proactive strategic advantage. We will delve deep into the principles that govern modern inventory management, moving beyond basic concepts to explore sophisticated forecasting, planning, and control techniques. Drawing upon the foundational work of experts like Edward A. Silver, whose book "Inventory Management and Production Planning and Scheduling" remains a seminal text, this program provides a robust framework for mastering inventory dynamics. Participants will learn to mitigate the risks of stockouts and overstocking, reduce inventory carrying costs, and enhance overall supply chain responsiveness. At BIG BEN Training Center, we provide a learning experience that equips professionals with the analytical skills and strategic foresight needed to design and implement world-class inventory systems that drive sustainable business growth and competitive advantage in a volatile global market.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Inventory Managers and Planners.
- Supply Chain and Logistics Professionals.
- Warehouse Supervisors and Managers.
- Procurement and Purchasing Specialists.
- Operations Managers.
- Demand Planners and Forecasters.
- Financial Analysts involved in inventory costing.
- Small and Medium Business Owners.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Production.
- Retail and E-commerce.
- Wholesale and Distribution.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Automotive and Aerospace.
- Food and Beverage.
- Logistics and Third-Party Logistics (3PL) Providers.
- Government and Public Sector Operations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain Management.
- Logistics and Distribution.
- Warehouse and Inventory Control.
- Procurement and Sourcing.
- Operations Management.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Production Planning.
- Sales and Operations Planning (S&OP).

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop robust demand forecasting models to improve inventory planning accuracy.
- Implement ABC analysis and other inventory classification techniques to prioritize stock.
- Calculate and optimize safety stock levels to buffer against supply and demand uncertainty.
- Apply Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) and other inventory models to minimize total costs.
- Master Just-In-Time (JIT) principles to reduce waste and improve efficiency.
- Design and manage effective cycle counting programs to ensure high inventory record accuracy.
- Analyze key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure and improve inventory performance.
- Develop strategies for managing obsolete, slow-moving, and excess inventory.
- Integrate inventory management strategies with broader supply chain and business objectives.

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 in a professional context. We move beyond traditional lecture-based formats to create a dynamic learning environment built on a foundation of experiential learning. The course heavily incorporates real-world case studies, allowing participants to analyze complex inventory challenges faced by leading global companies and develop viable solutions. Collaborative group discussions and problem-solving workshops encourage the sharing of diverse perspectives and foster a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Practical exercises and simulations will be used to reinforce key concepts such as demand forecasting, safety stock calculation, and inventory classification. Our expert instructors facilitate sessions that are rich with practical examples and provide continuous, constructive feedback. This blended approach ensures that participants not only grasp the theoretical frameworks of inventory optimization but also develop the critical thinking and practical skills necessary to implement effective stock management strategies within their own organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Modern Inventory Management

- The Strategic Role of Inventory in the Supply Chain.
- Understanding the Costs of Inventory (Carrying, Ordering, Stockout).
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Inventory Management.
- Inventory Turnover and Days of Supply Calculation.
- The Bullwhip Effect and Its Impact on Inventory Levels.
- Introduction to Inventory Management Systems and Technology.
- Aligning Inventory Strategy with Corporate Financial Goals.

Unit Two: Demand Forecasting and Inventory Planning

- Fundamentals of Demand Forecasting.
- Qualitative and Quantitative Forecasting Methods.
- Time-Series Analysis (Moving Averages, Exponential Smoothing).
- Measuring Forecast Accuracy (MAPE, MAD, MSE).
- Managing Seasonality, Trends, and Random Variation in Demand.
- Collaborative Planning, Forecasting, and Replenishment (CPFR).
- The Role of Sales and Operations Planning (S&OP) in Inventory Management.

Unit Three: Inventory Control Models and Prioritization Techniques

- ABC Analysis for Inventory Prioritization.
- The Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) Model.
- Calculating the Reorder Point (ROP).
- Understanding and Implementing Just-In-Time (JIT) Systems.
- The Kanban System for Production and Inventory Control.
- Periodic Review vs. Continuous Review Systems.
- Vendor-Managed Inventory (VMI) and Consignment Stock.

Unit Four: Warehouse Operations and Inventory Accuracy

- Best Practices in Warehouse Layout and Stock Location.
- The Role of a Warehouse Management System (WMS).
- Physical Inventory vs. Cycle Counting Programs.
- Techniques for Improving Inventory Record Accuracy.
- Receiving, Put-Away, and Picking Processes Optimization.
- Managing Returns and Reverse Logistics.
- Health and Safety in Stock Control Operations.

Unit Five: Advanced Optimization and Risk Management

- Calculating and Optimizing Safety Stock Levels.
- Managing Supply Chain Disruptions and Inventory Risk.
- Strategies for Reducing Slow-Moving and Obsolete Stock (SLOB).
- Multi-Echelon Inventory Optimization (MEIO).
- The Impact of Lead Time Variability on Inventory.
- Leveraging Technology: AI and Machine Learning in Inventory Optimization.
- Developing a Continuous Improvement Culture in Inventory Management.

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 and the rise of AI, how might traditional inventory models like EOQ need to evolve to remain effective?

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

This course distinguishes itself by focusing on the strategic integration of inventory management within the broader context of business operations and supply chain strategy, rather than merely teaching isolated techniques or software functionalities. While other programs may concentrate on the "how" of inventory calculations, we emphasize the "why" behind strategic inventory decisions. Our curriculum is built around a deep-seated understanding that optimal inventory levels are not a one-size-fits-all formula but a dynamic balance influenced by market volatility, supplier reliability, and corporate financial objectives. We utilize a case-study-driven approach that immerses participants in complex, real-world scenarios, compelling them to weigh trade-offs and develop nuanced solutions. The course fosters a holistic perspective, connecting inventory control to demand planning, procurement, logistics, and finance. By focusing on analytical thinking and strategic problem-solving, we empower participants to design and implement resilient, cost-effective inventory systems that can adapt to the unpredictable nature of modern global supply chains, providing a lasting competitive advantage that transcends proficiency in any single tool or methodology.