Advanced Air Cargo Operations and IATA Compliance Training Course

02 - 06 Nov 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The global air cargo industry is the backbone of international trade, facilitating the rapid movement of goods and underpinning complex supply chains. This course provides a comprehensive exploration of air cargo management from A to Z, focusing on operational excellence and strict adherence to International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. As detailed by logistics expert Martin Christopher in his seminal work, "Logistics & Supply Chain Management," efficiency and compliance are the twin pillars of success in modern logistics. This program is meticulously designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, covering everything from fundamental air freight principles to the intricate details of handling special cargo, security protocols, and customs procedures. Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the entire air cargo lifecycle, including documentation, ULD management, and regulatory compliance. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to empower professionals with the skills needed to navigate the dynamic and highly regulated air freight environment, ensuring shipments are handled safely, securely, and efficiently. This training is essential for anyone seeking to master air cargo operations and achieve excellence in the aviation supply chain sector.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airline Cargo Operations Staff.
- Freight Forwarders and Logistics Coordinators.
- Supply Chain and Logistics Managers.
- Import/Export Agents and Customs Brokers.
- Cargo Agents and Supervisors.
- Ground Handling Agents and Ramp Staff.
- Warehouse and Distribution Center Managers.
- Aviation Security Personnel.
- Purchasing and Procurement Professionals involved in international shipping.
- Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Officers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Airlines and Air Cargo Carriers.
- Freight Forwarding and Logistics Companies.
- Third-Party Logistics (3PL) Providers.
- Manufacturing and Retail Companies.
- Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Industries.
- Perishable Goods and Agriculture Sectors.
- Technology and Electronics Manufacturing.
- Government Agencies (Customs, Border Control, Civil Aviation Authorities).
- Oil and Gas Industry.
- Automotive Industry.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- Operations and Cargo Handling.
- Import and Export Departments.
- Warehouse and Distribution.
- Compliance and Regulatory Affairs.
- Security and Loss Prevention.
- Procurement and Sourcing.
- Sales and Customer Service (Cargo).
- Freight and Transportation Management.

Course Offerings:

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

- Interpret and apply key IATA regulations for air cargo shipments.
- Master the procedures for completing and managing the Air Waybill (AWB).
- Implement correct handling procedures for various types of cargo, including special cargo.
- Understand the principles of cargo build-up and breakdown using Unit Load Devices (ULDs).
- Navigate international air cargo security requirements and protocols.
- Manage the complexities of customs clearance for air freight.
- Apply correct rating and pricing principles for air cargo transportation.
- Effectively handle cargo claims and irregularities.
- Analyze the role of technology and automation in modern air cargo operations.
- Develop strategies for optimizing air freight logistics and supply chain efficiency.

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 a professional context. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment through a blend of expert-led instruction, real-world case studies, and collaborative group activities. Participants will analyze complex shipping scenarios, such as managing a multi-piece dangerous goods shipment or coordinating a time-sensitive perishable cargo delivery. Practical exercises will include calculating chargeable weight, completing Air Waybills, and developing load plans. Group discussions and workshops will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse industry experiences. Our expert instructors facilitate an open environment where questions are encouraged, and complex concepts are broken down into understandable components. Continuous feedback is provided throughout the sessions to reinforce learning and ensure all participants achieve the course objectives. This hands-on, participant-centered approach guarantees a deep and lasting understanding of advanced air cargo operations and IATA compliance.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Fundamentals of the Air Cargo Industry

- Introduction to the Global Air Cargo Market.
- Key Stakeholders: Airlines, Forwarders, Shippers, and Consignees.
- The Role and Structure of IATA in Air Freight.
- Aircraft Types and Cargo Capacities.
- Understanding Air Cargo Terminology and Acronyms.
- The Air Cargo Supply Chain and Logistics Flow.
- Introduction to World Geography in Air Freight Routing.

Unit Two: Air Cargo Operations and Documentation

- Principles of Cargo Acceptance and Handling.
- The Air Waybill (AWB): Purpose, Types, and Completion.
- Understanding Conditions of Contract.
- Unit Load Devices (ULDs): Types, Handling, and Management.
- Cargo Build-Up and Breakdown Procedures.
- Calculating Chargeable Weight and Volume.
- Basics of Air Cargo Rating and Tariff Rules.

Unit Three: Managing Special Cargo and Dangerous Goods

- Introduction to IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR).
- Classification and Identification of Dangerous Goods.
- Packing, Marking, and Labeling Requirements for DGR.
- Handling Live Animals according to IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR).
- Procedures for Perishable Cargo based on IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (PCR).
- Managing Valuable, Vulnerable, and Temperature-Sensitive Shipments.
- Documentation for Special Cargo Shipments.

Unit Four: Air Cargo Security, Customs, and Compliance

- International and National Air Cargo Security Regulations.
- Screening and Securing Cargo Shipments.
- The Role of Regulated Agents (RA) and Known Consignors (KC).
- Understanding Customs Procedures for Import, Export, and Transit.
- Essential Customs Documentation and Declarations.
- Cargo Claims: Prevention, Procedures, and Liability.
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance in Air Freight.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics and Future of Air Cargo

- Advanced Air Cargo Rating and Pricing Strategies.
- Intermodal Transportation and Air-Sea-Land Connections.
- The Impact of Technology: e-Freight, e-AWB, and Digitalization.
- Sustainability and Green Initiatives in the Air Cargo Industry.
- Risk Management in Air Cargo Logistics.
- Future Trends: Drones, AI, and Automation in Air Freight.
- Course Review, Final Assessment, and Action Planning.

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:

As digitalization and automation reshape the industry, how might the fundamental roles of freight forwarders and airline cargo divisions evolve to maintain relevance and add value in the next decade?

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

This training course distinguishes itself by offering a holistic and deeply integrated curriculum that connects operational practices directly with IATA's regulatory framework. While many courses focus narrowly on either operations or regulations, this program synthesizes both into a cohesive learning experience. We move beyond simply reciting rules to exploring the practical implications of compliance on the ground, using real-world case studies to illustrate how IATA standards directly impact safety, efficiency, and profitability. The curriculum is uniquely structured to build knowledge progressively, starting with industry fundamentals and culminating in advanced strategic topics like digitalization and sustainability, providing a complete A-to-Z perspective. Furthermore, the course emphasizes the "why" behind the procedures, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills rather than rote memorization. By focusing on the interplay between documentation, special cargo handling, security, and technology, participants gain a multi-dimensional understanding that empowers them to not only follow procedures but to lead and innovate within the complex air cargo ecosystem.