Petrochemical Reliability Centered Maintenance Training Course

21 - 25 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #OG5805_274908

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive and practical framework for implementing Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) within the unique and demanding environment of petrochemical plants. Moving beyond theoretical concepts, this program focuses on the real-world application of RCM principles to enhance asset reliability, optimize maintenance strategies, and ensure operational excellence while adhering to stringent safety standards. As detailed by the renowned author John Moubray in his seminal work "Reliability-centered Maintenance," RCM is a structured process used to determine the most effective maintenance approach for any given asset in its operating context. This training, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is meticulously designed to equip participants with the skills to conduct Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA), select appropriate maintenance tasks, and build a sustainable reliability culture. We will explore how to integrate RCM with existing systems like Process Safety Management (PSM) and asset performance management, ensuring that maintenance efforts are directly linked to preserving function, managing risk, and improving plant availability and profitability in the high-stakes petrochemical sector.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Reliability Engineers.
- Maintenance Managers and Supervisors.
- Maintenance Planners and Schedulers.
- Plant and Operations Managers.
- Asset Integrity Engineers.
- Technical and Engineering Staff.
- Process Safety Professionals.
- Inspection and Condition Monitoring Specialists.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Petrochemical and Chemical Manufacturing.
- Oil and Gas (Upstream, Midstream, and Downstream).
- Refining and Processing Plants.
- Industrial Gas Production.
- Plastics and Polymer Manufacturing.
- Fertilizer Production Facilities.
- Government Agencies and Regulatory Bodies overseeing industrial safety.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Maintenance and Reliability.
- Engineering and Technical Services.
- Plant Operations and Production.
- Asset Management and Integrity.
- Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE).
- Inspection and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT).
- Turnaround and Shutdown Planning.

Course Offerings:

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

- Master the seven fundamental questions of RCM analysis as applied to petrochemical equipment.
- Conduct a thorough Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) for critical assets.
- Develop and justify cost-effective, risk-based maintenance strategies.
- Differentiate between preventive, predictive, and proactive maintenance tasks.
- Align RCM initiatives with Process Safety Management (PSM) requirements.
- Utilize RCM to improve equipment availability and reduce unplanned downtime.
- Implement a sustainable RCM program within their organization.
- Analyze failure data to drive continuous improvement in maintenance plans.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, engaging, and directly applicable to the participant's work environment. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to foster a deep and practical understanding of Reliability Centered Maintenance. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to hands-on workshops and syndicate group exercises where participants will work on real-world petrochemical case studies, from analyzing pump failure modes to developing maintenance plans for pressure vessels. The facilitator will guide these sessions, encouraging collaborative problem-solving and knowledge sharing among peers. Interactive discussions, video materials illustrating equipment failures, and practical simulations of the RCM decision-making process are core components. This blended learning approach ensures that participants not only grasp the theoretical principles but also gain the confidence to apply them. Continuous feedback is provided throughout the course, allowing for a dynamic and responsive learning experience that solidifies knowledge and builds practical skills for immediate implementation on-site.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of RCM in the Petrochemical Context

- Introduction to Asset Management and Reliability Principles.
- The Evolution of Maintenance Philosophies.
- Defining Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) and its Core Objectives.
- Understanding the SAE JA1011 Standard for RCM.
- The Business Case for RCM in High-Risk Industries.
- Integrating RCM with Process Safety Management (PSM) and API Standards.
- The Role of the RCM Facilitator and Team.

Unit Two: The RCM Analysis Process and FMEA

- The Seven Fundamental Questions of RCM Analysis.
- Step 1: Defining Functions and Performance Standards for Petrochemical Assets.
- Step 2: Identifying Functional Failures.
- Step 3: Determining Failure Modes for Rotating and Static Equipment.
- Step 4: Describing Failure Effects in Detail.
- Conducting a comprehensive Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA).
- Practical Workshop on FMEA for a Centrifugal Pump System.

Unit Three: Maintenance Task Selection and Strategy Development

- Step 5: Analyzing Failure Consequences (Safety, Environmental, Operational, Non-operational).
- The RCM Decision Logic Diagram.
- Step 6: Selecting Proactive Maintenance Tasks (Condition-Based, Time-Based).
- Step 7: Choosing Default Actions (Failure-Finding, Redesign, Run-to-Failure).
- Developing Optimized Preventive Maintenance (PM) Plans.
- The Role of Predictive Maintenance (PdM) Technologies.
- Grouping and Packaging Maintenance Tasks for Efficiency.

Unit Four: Implementing RCM for Critical Petrochemical Assets

- Applying RCM to Rotating Equipment (Pumps, Compressors, Turbines).
- RCM for Static Equipment (Pressure Vessels, Piping, Heat Exchangers).
- Analysis of Electrical and Instrumentation (E&I) Systems.
- Developing Maintenance Strategies for Protective Systems and Alarms.
- Managing the RCM Implementation Project.
- Utilizing CMMS (e.g., SAP PM, Maximo) to Support RCM Implementation.
- Overcoming Common Barriers to Successful RCM Implementation.

Unit Five: Sustaining RCM and Advanced Reliability Concepts

- Living RCM Programs: Auditing and Updating Analyses.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Measuring RCM Program Success.
- Introduction to Root Cause Analysis (RCA) to Complement RCM.
- Integrating Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) with RCM Findings.
- The Human Factor in Reliability and Maintenance.
- Future Trends: IIoT, AI, and Digitalization in Asset Management.
- Final Case Study and Presentation of RCM Findings.

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:

Considering the high-consequence environment of petrochemical plants, how does the RCM decision logic for failure management fundamentally shift when compared to its application in a standard manufacturing setting?

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

This course distinguishes itself by its unwavering focus on the specific context of the petrochemical industry, a sector where maintenance decisions carry immense safety, environmental, and financial weight. Unlike generic RCM courses, every module, case study, and discussion is tailored to address the unique challenges of this environment, such as managing corrosion under insulation, ensuring the integrity of high-pressure systems, and aligning maintenance with stringent Process Safety Management (PSM) regulations. The curriculum moves beyond mere theoretical recitation of the seven RCM questions to immerse participants in practical application. Participants will not just learn about FMEA; they will perform one on equipment common to their plants. The program emphasizes the integration of RCM with other critical reliability methodologies like Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) and Root Cause Analysis (RCA), presenting a holistic vision of asset integrity management. This approach ensures that attendees leave not just with knowledge, but with a clear, actionable roadmap for implementing a robust RCM program that enhances safety, minimizes downtime, and drives operational excellence in their specific high-stakes work environment.