Effective Risk-Based Project Auditing for Assurance Training Course

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4100 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive framework for mastering risk-based auditing and assurance within the project management lifecycle. In today's dynamic business environment, projects are the primary vehicles for strategic execution, but they are also fraught with inherent risks that can derail objectives and erode value. A reactive, compliance-focused audit approach is no longer sufficient. This training course champions a proactive, risk-based methodology that aligns audit activities with the most significant threats to project success, thereby enhancing project governance and stakeholder confidence. Drawing upon foundational principles articulated by thought leaders like Lawrence B. Sawyer in works such as "Sawyer's Internal Auditing," the curriculum moves beyond traditional checklists to instill a strategic mindset. Participants will learn to identify, assess, and prioritize project risks, design targeted audit procedures, and deliver insightful assurance that supports effective decision-making. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this program to bridge the critical gap between project management and internal audit, equipping professionals with the skills to not only identify control weaknesses but also to contribute tangible value by improving project outcomes and safeguarding organizational assets.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Internal Auditors and Senior Auditors.
- Project Managers and Program Managers.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Project Management Office (PMO) staff.
- IT Auditors and Project Controllers.
- Finance Managers and Business Analysts involved in projects.
- Quality Assurance Professionals.
- Members of audit and risk committees.
- External Consultants providing project assurance services.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Information Technology and Telecommunications.
- Construction and Engineering.
- Oil, Gas, and Energy.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Manufacturing and Supply Chain.
- Governmental Agencies and Public Sector Organizations.
- Consulting and Professional Services.
- Non-Profit and International Development Organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Internal Audit Department.
- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Risk Management Department.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Compliance and Legal.
- Operations Management.
- Information Technology (IT).
- Procurement and Contract Management.
- Strategy and Corporate Planning.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive risk-based audit plan tailored to specific project environments.
- Identify and assess key risks across the entire project lifecycle, from initiation to closure.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of project governance, risk management, and internal control frameworks.
- Design and execute audit tests to gather sufficient and appropriate evidence.
- Audit complex project areas such as procurement, contract management, and stakeholder engagement.
- Apply data analytics techniques to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of project audits.
- Communicate audit findings, conclusions, and recommendations clearly and persuasively to senior management.
- Provide value-added assurance that contributes to the successful delivery of project objectives.
- Facilitate the implementation of continuous auditing and monitoring for ongoing project oversight.
- Align project audit activities with the organization's overall strategic goals.

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 the learned concepts in their professional roles. We move beyond theoretical lectures to a hands-on, experiential learning environment. The course heavily utilizes real-world case studies and business scenarios, allowing participants to analyze complex project situations and develop practical solutions in a controlled setting. Group discussions, team-based exercises, and workshops foster collaborative learning and allow for the exchange of diverse perspectives and experiences. Role-playing sessions, particularly in areas like stakeholder interviews and presenting audit findings, help build confidence and refine communication skills. Our expert instructors act as facilitators, guiding participants through the material while providing continuous feedback and personalized coaching. The program integrates practical tools and templates that can be adapted for use within the participants' own organizations. This blended approach ensures a deep understanding of risk-based project auditing principles and equips attendees with the tangible skills needed to provide effective project assurance and drive organizational improvement.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of Risk-Based Project Auditing

- Introduction to project management and the project lifecycle.
- Defining project success beyond time, scope, and budget.
- The evolution from traditional to risk-based auditing.
- Understanding the concepts of project risk, controls, and assurance.
- Key frameworks and standards (COSO, ISO 31000, PMBOK).
- The role and responsibilities of the project auditor.
- Establishing the link between project risks and organizational objectives.

Unit Two Strategic Audit Planning and Risk Assessment

- Defining the project audit universe and scope.
- Conducting a thorough project risk assessment.
- Identifying inherent and residual risks in projects.
- Techniques for risk prioritization and heat mapping.
- Developing the risk-based internal audit plan for a project.
- Aligning the audit plan with stakeholder expectations.
- Documenting the audit planning process and risk analysis.

Unit Three Audit Execution and Fieldwork Techniques

- Developing a detailed audit program and work papers.
- Techniques for testing project controls and processes.
- Conducting effective interviews with project managers and stakeholders.
- Gathering and evaluating audit evidence.
- Introduction to data analytics for project auditing.
- Assessing project governance and oversight structures.
- Documenting fieldwork and initial observations.

Unit Four Auditing Key Project Management Areas

- Auditing project initiation and business case validation.
- Evaluating scope, schedule, and budget management controls.
- Auditing procurement, vendor selection, and contract management.
- Assessing stakeholder management and communication plans.
- Reviewing quality management and testing processes.
- Auditing project change control procedures.
- Examining project closure, handover, and benefits realization.

Unit Five Reporting, Assurance, and Continuous Improvement

- Synthesizing audit findings and identifying root causes.
- Developing practical and value-added recommendations.
- Writing clear, concise, and impactful audit reports.
- Techniques for presenting findings to management and audit committees.
- The audit follow-up and issue tracking process.
- Introduction to continuous auditing and monitoring for projects.
- The auditor's role in fostering a culture of project risk awareness.

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 increasingly agile and fast-paced project environment, how can traditional audit assurance models adapt to provide timely and relevant insights without stifling innovation?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic and strategic perspective on project auditing, moving beyond mere compliance checking to focus on value creation and strategic alignment. Unlike programs that treat project auditing as a simple extension of financial or operational audits, this curriculum is specifically designed to address the unique complexities and dynamic nature of project environments. It deeply integrates principles of modern project management with advanced risk-based auditing techniques, creating a synergistic approach that is rarely found elsewhere. The emphasis is on practical application, using intricate case studies that mirror the real-world challenges participants face, from auditing large-scale IT implementations to complex construction projects. Furthermore, the course content is forward-looking, incorporating modules on auditing agile projects and leveraging data analytics, ensuring participants are equipped with current and future-proof skills. The core philosophy is to transform the auditor from a historical reviewer into a proactive business partner who provides forward-looking insights, enhances project governance, and ultimately contributes to the successful achievement of strategic objectives.