Strategic Inventory Management and Cost Reduction Training Course

21 - 25 Dec 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

Ref: #PSC9008_138615

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course provides an in-depth exploration of the principles and practices of strategic inventory management and its direct impact on cost reduction and overall business profitability. In today's competitive global market, optimizing inventory is no longer just an operational task but a critical strategic imperative that enhances cash flow, improves customer service, and builds supply chain resilience. This course moves beyond basic inventory control, delving into advanced techniques for demand forecasting, stock level optimization, and implementing lean inventory principles. As highlighted by renowned academic Donald J. Bowersox in his works like "Supply Chain Logistics Management", a truly effective supply chain integrates logistics and inventory strategy seamlessly. Participants will learn to analyze inventory costs, from carrying costs to stockout costs, and apply proven methodologies to minimize them without compromising service levels. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this program to equip professionals with the analytical skills and strategic foresight needed to transform their organization's inventory from a liability into a competitive advantage, ensuring they can navigate market volatility and drive sustainable financial performance through intelligent inventory optimization.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Supply Chain Managers.
- Inventory Planners and Analysts.
- Logistics and Distribution Managers.
- Procurement and Purchasing Professionals.
- Operations Managers.
- Warehouse Supervisors and Managers.
- Financial Controllers and Analysts involved in cost management.
- Production Planners.
- Business Owners and Entrepreneurs.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- E-commerce and Direct-to-Consumer Businesses.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Automotive and Aerospace.
- Third-Party Logistics (3PL) and Distribution.
- Food and Beverage.
- Government Agencies and Public Sector Entities.
- Construction and Engineering.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain Management.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Logistics and Distribution.
- Operations Management.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Warehouse and Materials Management.
- Production and Planning.
- Strategic Planning.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive inventory strategy aligned with corporate financial goals.
- Implement advanced inventory classification techniques such as ABC analysis.
- Apply quantitative models like the Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) to optimize order sizes.
- Master demand forecasting methods to improve inventory accuracy and reduce uncertainty.
- Calculate and manage optimal safety stock levels to prevent stockouts while minimizing costs.
- Execute effective cost reduction strategies across the entire inventory lifecycle.
- Analyze and improve key inventory performance metrics and KPIs.
- Integrate Just-in-Time (JIT) and lean principles into inventory management practices.
- Evaluate the role of technology in modernizing inventory control systems.
- Enhance supplier relationship management to support inventory optimization 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. This course blends expert-led instruction with a variety of active learning techniques. Theoretical sessions will introduce foundational concepts and advanced models in inventory management and cost reduction, grounded in real-world applicability. These sessions are complemented by in-depth case study analyses of successful inventory optimization projects from various industries, allowing participants to understand the practical challenges and solutions. Group discussions and collaborative workshops will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse experiences. Practical exercises and simulations will provide hands-on experience in applying techniques like demand forecasting, safety stock calculation, and total cost of ownership analysis. Throughout the course, there will be continuous opportunities for feedback and Q&A sessions, fostering a dynamic and supportive learning environment where participants build not only knowledge but also the confidence to implement transformative inventory strategies.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of Strategic Inventory Management

- The strategic role of inventory in the supply chain.
- Understanding the different types of inventories.
- Key objectives of inventory management.
- Analyzing the total costs of inventory (carrying, ordering, stockout).
- Introduction to key performance indicators (KPIs) for inventory.
- The relationship between inventory management and financial performance.
- Aligning inventory strategy with overall business objectives.

Unit Two Inventory Control and Classification Techniques

- ABC analysis for inventory prioritization.
- Cycle counting for improving inventory accuracy.
- The Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) model.
- Understanding and calculating reorder points (ROP).
- Strategies for managing slow-moving and obsolete stock (SLOB).
- Implementing effective physical inventory and stock-taking procedures.
- Inventory valuation methods (FIFO, LIFO, Weighted Average).

Unit Three Demand Forecasting and Inventory Planning

- The importance of accurate demand forecasting.
- Qualitative and quantitative forecasting methods.
- Time-series forecasting models (Moving Averages, Exponential Smoothing).
- Measuring forecast accuracy and error.
- Introduction to Materials Requirement Planning (MRP).
- Just-in-Time (JIT) inventory principles and implementation.
- Lean inventory and waste reduction techniques.

Unit Four Cost Reduction and Supplier Management

- Identifying key areas for cost reduction in the supply chain.
- Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) analysis in procurement.
- Strategic sourcing and its impact on inventory costs.
- Building effective supplier relationship management (SRM) programs.
- Negotiation strategies for better pricing and terms.
- Collaborative Planning, Forecasting, and Replenishment (CPFR).
- Reducing lead times through process improvement and supplier collaboration.

Unit Five Advanced Optimization, Technology, and Risk Management

- Optimizing warehouse layout and design for efficiency.
- The role of technology in inventory management (WMS, ERP, Barcoding).
- Introduction to supply chain analytics and data-driven decision-making.
- Managing inventory risk and building supply chain resilience.
- Global inventory management considerations.
- Sustainability in inventory and logistics.
- Capstone project: Developing an inventory optimization plan.

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-driven analytics, how can traditional inventory models like EOQ remain relevant, and what adaptations are necessary for them to coexist with modern predictive technologies?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic and strategic perspective on inventory management, moving far beyond the mere application of formulas and control techniques. While other programs may focus narrowly on operational tactics, this training emphasizes the critical link between inventory decisions, cost reduction, and the overarching financial health and strategic goals of an organization. We delve into the "why" behind the "how," enabling participants to develop a strategic mindset that balances the competing priorities of cost, service level, and risk. The curriculum is uniquely structured to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical implementation, using real-world case studies and simulations that reflect contemporary supply chain challenges. Rather than just teaching inventory as a standalone function, we integrate it with procurement, logistics, and finance, fostering a cross-functional understanding essential for true optimization. The focus is on building analytical and decision-making capabilities, empowering participants to not only manage inventory but to leverage it as a powerful tool for creating a resilient and competitive supply chain.