Strategic Vendor Risk and Compliance Auditing Training Course

26 - 30 Oct 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #PSC9232_284542

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's interconnected global economy, organizations rely heavily on third-party vendors, creating a complex web of dependencies and potential vulnerabilities. Proactively managing these relationships is no longer a choice but a critical business imperative. This course provides a comprehensive framework for establishing and maintaining a robust vendor risk management (VRM) and compliance auditing program. It moves beyond theoretical concepts to deliver actionable strategies for identifying, assessing, mitigating, and monitoring risks throughout the entire vendor lifecycle. Drawing on principles discussed by thought leaders like Dr. Norman Marks, who emphasizes the importance of risk-based decision-making, the curriculum integrates key elements of governance, risk, and compliance (GRC). Participants will explore methodologies aligned with concepts found in foundational texts such as "The Orange Book: Management of Risk – Principles and Concepts". BIG BEN Training Center has designed this program to empower professionals to build resilient supply chains, ensure regulatory adherence, and protect their organizations from financial, operational, and reputational damage associated with third-party failures. This is the definitive training for mastering strategic vendor oversight from A to Z.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Risk Managers and Analysts.
- Compliance Officers and Specialists.
- Procurement, Purchasing, and Sourcing Professionals.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Supply Chain and Logistics Managers.
- Vendor Relationship Managers.
- IT Security and Cybersecurity Professionals.
- Legal Counsel and Contract Managers.
- Operations Managers.
- Finance and Accounting Professionals.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Financial Services and Banking.
- Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, and Life Sciences.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas Utilities.
- Government and Public Sector Agencies.
- Consulting and Professional Services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Procurement and Sourcing.
- Risk Management.
- Compliance and Legal.
- Internal Audit.
- Information Technology (IT) and Cybersecurity.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Supply Chain Management.
- Operations.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop and implement a comprehensive, risk-based vendor risk management framework.
- Conduct thorough due diligence and effective onboarding for new vendors.
- Master various risk assessment methodologies to quantify and prioritize third-party risks.
- Design and execute strategic compliance audit programs for key vendors.
- Interpret complex regulatory requirements and apply them to vendor contracts and operations.
- Create effective risk mitigation and corrective action plans.
- Establish robust continuous monitoring processes for the entire vendor portfolio.
- Enhance negotiation skills for embedding risk and compliance clauses into vendor contracts.
- Prepare and present clear, impactful audit findings and risk reports to senior management.
- Manage the vendor offboarding process securely and efficiently.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and highly practical, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning in a professional context. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster an environment of active engagement and experiential learning. The course is built upon a foundation of expert-led instruction, where complex topics like third-party risk management (TPRM) and compliance auditing frameworks are broken down into understandable components. This is heavily supplemented with real-world case studies that challenge participants to analyze vendor failures and successful risk mitigation strategies. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to collaborative group exercises and workshops, allowing attendees to practice skills such as conducting a risk assessment, developing an audit plan, and negotiating contract terms in a simulated environment. Role-playing scenarios will be used to sharpen communication and interviewing skills essential for effective auditing. Continuous feedback from the instructor and peers is a core component, ensuring a dynamic and supportive learning journey that builds both competence and confidence.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of Strategic Vendor Risk Management

- Introduction to Third-Party Risk Management (TPRM).
- The Modern Regulatory and Compliance Landscape.
- Key Risk Domains: Cybersecurity, Financial, Operational, and Reputational.
- Establishing a Vendor Risk Management (VRM) Framework.
- Defining Risk Appetite and Tolerance Levels.
- Roles and Responsibilities in the VRM Lifecycle.
- The Intersection of Vendor Risk and Corporate Governance.

Unit Two The Vendor Lifecycle: Due Diligence and Onboarding

- Phase One: Vendor Selection and Initial Screening.
- Conducting Comprehensive Vendor Due diligence.
- Assessing Financial Stability and Operational Capacity.
- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Assessments.
- Crafting Effective Risk-Based Questionnaires and Checklists.
- Negotiating Contracts with a Focus on Risk and Compliance Clauses.
- The Formal Vendor Onboarding Process.

Unit Three Advanced Risk Assessment and Mitigation

- Qualitative vs. Quantitative Risk Assessment Methodologies.
- Developing a Vendor Risk Scoring and Tiering Model.
- Conducting In-depth Inherent and Residual Risk Analysis.
- Mapping Controls to Identified Risks.
- Designing and Implementing Effective Risk Mitigation Strategies.
- Creating and Managing Corrective Action Plans (CAPs).
- Understanding and Managing Fourth-Party (Subcontractor) Risk.

Unit Four Designing and Executing Compliance Audit Programs

- Fundamentals of Vendor Auditing.
- Developing a Risk-Based Annual Vendor Audit Plan.
- Defining Audit Scope, Objectives, and Criteria.
- Techniques for Evidence Gathering and Analysis.
- Conducting On-site and Remote Audits Effectively.
- Effective Interviewing and Communication Skills for Auditors.
- Documenting Audit Workpapers and Observations.

Unit Five Audit Reporting, Continuous Monitoring, and Offboarding

- Writing Clear, Concise, and Actionable Audit Reports.
- Presenting Audit Findings to Stakeholders and Senior Management.
- Tracking and Validating the Implementation of Corrective Actions.
- Implementing a Continuous Monitoring Program.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Key Risk Indicators (KRIs) for Vendors.
- The Strategic Vendor Offboarding and Data Destruction Process.
- Future Trends in Vendor Risk Management and Technology.

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 increasingly complex and interconnected global supply chains, how can an organization balance the need for rapid innovation and partnership with the imperative to maintain stringent risk and compliance controls?

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

This course distinguishes itself by offering a holistic and integrated perspective on vendor management, treating risk assessment and compliance auditing not as separate functions but as two sides of the same coin. While many programs focus narrowly on either procurement or auditing, this curriculum provides a complete A-to-Z journey through the entire third-party risk lifecycle, from initial due diligence and strategic onboarding to continuous monitoring and secure offboarding. Its core strength lies in its practical application; participants will not only learn the theory behind risk frameworks but will actively engage in building them through case studies and hands-on workshops. The content is strategically designed to bridge the gap between departmental silos, fostering a common language and methodology for procurement, legal, IT, and audit teams. Furthermore, the course places a strong emphasis on forward-looking topics such as managing fourth-party (subcontractor) risk and leveraging technology for continuous monitoring, ensuring that the skills acquired are not just current but also future-proofed against the evolving landscape of global supply chain vulnerabilities.