Ethical Sourcing and Sustainable Supplier Auditing Training Course

26 - 30 Oct 2026

Vienna

5800 € (Per Person)

Ref: #SUS5643_142162

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's interconnected global economy, the integrity of a company's supply chain is a direct reflection of its values and a critical component of its long-term viability. This course provides a comprehensive exploration of ethical sourcing and sustainable supplier auditing, moving beyond mere compliance to strategic implementation. Participants will delve into the core principles that govern responsible procurement, from ensuring fair labor practices to minimizing environmental impact. We will explore foundational concepts such as the "Triple Bottom Line" framework, famously articulated by academic author John Elkington, which emphasizes balancing social, environmental, and financial performance. The curriculum is designed to equip professionals with the practical tools and methodologies needed to design, execute, and manage robust auditing programs that foster transparency and resilience. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to address the growing demand for skilled professionals who can navigate complex supply chain ethics, referencing practical insights similar to those discussed in works like "The Responsible Company". This training course is an essential investment for organizations committed to building a truly sustainable and ethical operational footprint.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Procurement and Sourcing Managers.
- Supply Chain and Logistics Directors.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Officers.
- Sustainability Managers.
- Compliance and Ethics Officers.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Quality Assurance Professionals.
- Supplier Relationship Managers.
- Product Development and Brand Managers.
- Risk Management Professionals.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Fashion, Apparel, and Textiles.
- Electronics and Technology.
- Food and Beverage.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Automotive Industry.
- Government Agencies and Public Sector Procurement.
- Construction and Raw Materials.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Procurement and Purchasing Department.
- Supply Chain Management Department.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability Department.
- Legal and Compliance Department.
- Internal Audit Department.
- Quality Assurance and Control Department.
- Operations Management.
- Risk Management Department.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive ethical sourcing framework aligned with corporate strategy.
- Master the complete lifecycle of a sustainable supplier audit, from planning to follow-up.
- Identify and assess key risks related to labor rights, environmental impact, and business ethics.
- Utilize international standards and frameworks such as SA8000 and ISO 26000.
- Design effective audit checklists and data collection tools for on-site assessments.
- Analyze audit findings to identify root causes and develop robust corrective action plans (CAPs).
- Enhance supply chain transparency and traceability through modern techniques.
- Communicate audit results effectively to internal and external stakeholders.
- Integrate sustainable procurement practices into daily operations.
- Foster collaborative relationships with suppliers to drive continuous improvement.

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 a blended learning environment that emphasizes active participation and real-world problem-solving. The course heavily features in-depth case studies of ethical sourcing challenges and successes, allowing participants to analyze complex scenarios and debate strategic solutions. Interactive workshops and group exercises will guide attendees through the process of creating supplier codes of conduct, developing risk assessment matrices, and designing audit protocols. Role-playing simulations of supplier audits and stakeholder negotiations will provide a safe environment to practice critical communication and assessment skills. Throughout the course, there will be ample opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices. Our expert instructors facilitate dynamic discussions and provide personalized feedback, ensuring that every participant leaves with a clear, actionable understanding of how to implement and manage an effective ethical sourcing and auditing program within their organization.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Ethical Sourcing and Supply Chain Sustainability

- Introduction to ethical sourcing and its strategic importance.
- The business case for sustainability in the supply chain.
- Understanding the Triple Bottom Line: People, Planet, Profit.
- Key terminology: CSR, ESG, ethical trade, and sustainable procurement.
- Mapping your supply chain to identify key risk areas.
- Major drivers of ethical sourcing: consumer demand, regulation, and investor pressure.
- Introduction to global ethical trade initiatives and organizations.

Unit Two: Regulatory Frameworks, Standards, and Certifications

- Overview of key international labor and human rights conventions.
- Navigating legislation like the Modern Slavery Act and conflict minerals regulations.
- Deep dive into social compliance standards: SA8000 and Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA).
- Understanding environmental standards such as ISO 14001.
- Exploring fair trade, organic, and other relevant product certifications.
- Developing a corporate supplier code of conduct.
- The role of multi-stakeholder initiatives in setting industry benchmarks.

Unit Three: The Sustainable Supplier Auditing Process

- Planning and preparing for a supplier audit.
- Defining the audit scope, objectives, and criteria.
- Techniques for effective on-site auditing and evidence gathering.
- Conducting worker interviews and document reviews.
- Assessing health, safety, and environmental management systems.
- Identifying non-compliance and grading findings by severity.
- Best practices for opening and closing meetings with supplier management.

Unit Four: Audit Reporting, Corrective Actions, and Follow-Up

- Analyzing audit data to identify root causes of non-compliance.
- Writing clear, concise, and actionable audit reports.
- Developing effective Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) with suppliers.
- Techniques for verifying the implementation and effectiveness of corrective actions.
- Managing supplier relationships during the remediation process.
- Using audit data for performance benchmarking and trend analysis.
- Communicating audit program results to senior management.

Unit Five: Advanced Strategies for a Responsible Supply Chain

- Moving beyond auditing: supplier capacity building and training programs.
- Leveraging technology for enhanced supply chain transparency and traceability.
- Integrating ethical sourcing metrics into supplier performance scorecards.
- Advanced risk assessment and due diligence methodologies.
- Building a culture of ethics and sustainability within the procurement function.
- Collaborating with suppliers on innovation for sustainability.
- The future of ethical sourcing and preparing for emerging challenges.

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:

Beyond compliance, how can ethical auditing be transformed from a cost center into a strategic driver for innovation and brand value?

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

This training course distinguishes itself by moving beyond theoretical frameworks to focus on the strategic implementation of ethical sourcing and auditing as a core business function. While many programs concentrate solely on the mechanics of compliance, our curriculum emphasizes how to leverage auditing as a tool for building resilient, transparent, and high-performing supply chains. We focus on the "why" behind the "how," enabling participants to not only conduct audits but also to analyze findings in the context of broader business objectives like risk mitigation, brand reputation, and long-term value creation. The course is built on a foundation of practical application, featuring extensive use of case studies, role-playing scenarios, and workshops that simulate real-world challenges. This hands-on approach ensures participants develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to manage complex ethical dilemmas. Furthermore, we dedicate significant time to post-audit strategies, such as developing collaborative corrective action plans and building supplier capacity, which are crucial for driving meaningful and sustainable improvement rather than simply identifying faults. The focus is on fostering a proactive, strategic mindset, empowering professionals to become agents of positive change within their organizations.