MARITIME SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



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Introduction

Sea transport carries most of the world's traded goods, yet the maritime supply chain is often managed as a series of disconnected bookings. A late vessel, a missed cut-off, a terminal congestion spike, or a blank sailing can disrupt production for weeks, and the cost rarely appears where anyone expects it. This Maritime Supply Chain Management Training Course gives shipping, logistics, and supply chain professionals a complete working method for planning and controlling sea-based flows. Participants learn shipping service design, port and terminal interfaces, container and bulk flows, lead time and reliability management, cost control, and risk and disruption planning.

Maritime Supply Chain Management Course Objectives

- Apply maritime supply chain structures from origin factory to final destination.
- Select shipping services using transit time, reliability, and cost trade-offs.
- Plan container flows: FCL, LCL, consolidation, and deconsolidation.
- Manage port and terminal interfaces: cut-offs, berthing, and yard operations.
- Apply Incoterms 2020 and customs requirements to sea movements.
- Manage lead time variability, buffer stock, and reliability planning.
- Control maritime freight cost: rates, surcharges, demurrage, and detention.
- Apply carrier, forwarder, and NVOCC selection and performance management.
- Identify maritime risk: port congestion, blank sailings, and route disruption.
- Measure performance with transit reliability, cost per container, and damage rate.

Course Methodology

- Facilitated sessions built on real sailing schedules, freight invoices, and port data.
- Case workshops on blank sailings, port congestion, and demurrage disputes.
- Lead time, buffer stock, and freight costing exercises with live data.

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- Service selection and carrier evaluation labs.
- Group exercise on a maritime supply chain improvement plan with targets.

Who Should Take This Course

- Supply chain and logistics managers.
- Shipping and freight forwarding professionals.
- Import and export operations staff.
- Procurement staff buying sea freight and maritime services.
- Port, terminal, and warehouse coordinators.
- Trade compliance and customs liaison officers.

Maritime Supply Chain Management Course Outlines

Day 1: Maritime Supply Chain Structure

- Sea transport role in global trade and key trade lanes.
- Shipping service types: liner, tramp, and specialised trades.
- Vessel classes and their cargo-carrying characteristics.
- Ports, hubs, transhipment, and feeder networks.
- Participants: carriers, forwarders, NVOCCs, and terminals.
- Shipping alliances and their effect on schedules.
- Aligning maritime flows with procurement and production plans.

Day 2: Service Selection and Container Flows

- Service selection using transit time, reliability, and cost.
- Direct versus transhipment routing decisions.

- FCL, LCL, consolidation, and deconsolidation operations.
- Container types and selection by cargo requirement.
- Cut-off times, rollovers, and booking practice.
- Equipment availability and container turnaround.
- Freight rate structures, surcharges, and contract terms.

Day 3: Port, Terminal, and Documentation Interfaces

- Terminal operations: berthing, discharge, and yard planning.
- Port congestion causes and mitigation options.
- Customs clearance, inspection, and release processes.
- Documentation: bill of lading, manifest, and certificates.
- Incoterms 2020 applied to sea and container shipments.
- Free zones, bonded storage, and transit arrangements.
- Digital documentation and port community systems.

Day 4: Lead Time, Inventory, and Cost Control

- Lead time components in maritime transport.
- Variability, buffer stock, and safety stock decisions.
- Total logistics cost and cost per container or per tonne.
- Demurrage, detention, and storage exposure control.
- Freight invoice audit and charge verification.
- Consolidation and modal shift for cost optimisation.
- Working capital and cash-to-cash cycle impact.

Day 5: Risk, Disruption, and Performance

- Maritime risk: congestion, blank sailings, and route closure.
- Geopolitical, weather, and capacity risk assessment.
- Carrier and forwarder performance measurement.
- Business continuity and alternative routing plans.
- KPIs: transit reliability, cost per container, and damage rate.
- Emissions reporting and sustainability in maritime supply chains.
- Building a maritime supply chain improvement roadmap.

Conclusion

By successfully completing the Maritime Supply Chain Management Training Course, participants will have acquired a thorough working knowledge of maritime supply chain structures, shipping service selection, container flow management, port and terminal interfaces, lead time and inventory control, maritime cost management, and risk and disruption planning. They will leave able to plan sea-based flows with reliable lead time, control freight and demurrage cost with evidence, and hold carriers and forwarders to measurable service levels. Gentex Training Center delivers this programme with maritime and supply chain practitioners working in live operations.

FAQs for the Maritime Supply Chain Management course

Q1 What is the "Maritime Supply Chain Management" course about?

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It is a five-day programme on planning and controlling goods movement by sea from origin to destination. It covers maritime supply chain structure, shipping service selection, container flows, port and terminal interfaces, lead time and inventory control, cost management, and risk and disruption planning.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Maritime Supply Chain Management" course?

Participants cut container cost and demurrage exposure with evidence, plan buffer stock against real transit variability rather than a single promised figure, and prepare alternative routing before congestion or a blank sailing forces it. They also hold carriers and forwarders to measurable reliability standards.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Maritime Supply Chain Management" course?

You will gain maritime supply chain planning and service selection, container flow and port interface management, maritime lead time, inventory, and cost control, and maritime risk, carrier performance, and disruption management.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Maritime Supply Chain Management" course?

The course works with liner, tramp and specialised shipping service structures, vessel classes and cargo-carrying characteristics, hub and transhipment network design, shipping alliance schedule analysis, service selection on transit time, reliability and cost, direct versus transhipment routing decisions, FCL, LCL, consolidation and deconsolidation operations, container type selection, cut-off times and rollover management, container turnaround control, freight rate structures and surcharges, terminal operations covering berthing, discharge and yard planning, port congestion mitigation, customs clearance and release processes, bills of lading and manifests, Incoterms 2020 applied to sea shipments, free zones and bonded storage, port community systems and digital documentation, lead time component analysis, buffer and safety stock calculation, total logistics cost and cost per container or tonne, demurrage and detention control, freight invoice auditing, consolidation and modal shift analysis, cash-to-cash cycle analysis, maritime risk assessment covering congestion, blank sailings and route closure, carrier and forwarder performance measurement, business continuity and alternative routing, and KPIs covering transit reliability, cost per container and damage rate.

Q5 How is the "Maritime Supply Chain Management" course applied in real-world practice?

Teams apply it when choosing a sailing service for a new trade lane, calculating buffer stock after repeated transit delays, auditing a forwarder invoice for incorrect surcharges, resolving a demurrage charge after terminal congestion, preparing an alternative routing plan before a peak season, and reviewing carrier reliability at a quarterly logistics review.