SUSTAINABLE & ETHICAL INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT PRACTICES



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Introduction

Every purchase carries a social and environmental footprint that extends well beyond the invoice. Labour conditions at a distant factory, emissions from a chosen transport mode, and sourcing from a region with weak governance all attach to the buyer's decision, whether or not the contract mentions them. This Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices Training Course gives procurement, compliance, and sustainability professionals a complete method to embed responsible practice in cross-border buying. Participants learn how to build supplier codes of conduct, run social and environmental due diligence, manage human rights and modern slavery risk, and measure sustainability performance. Furthermore, the course connects ethical sourcing to regulation, reporting, and commercial value.

Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices Course Objectives

- Apply sustainability and ethics principles across the full procurement cycle.
- Build and enforce supplier codes of conduct with clear requirements.
- Conduct social and environmental due diligence on international suppliers.
- Assess human rights, labour standards, and modern slavery risk in supply chains.
- Evaluate environmental impact: emissions, water, waste, and materials.
- Apply circular procurement principles and whole-life costing.
- Screen suppliers for bribery, sanctions, and conflict-of-interest exposure.
- Set measurable sustainability KPIs and supplier improvement targets.
- Prepare sustainability reporting aligned with recognised frameworks.
- Manage remediation, grievances, and supplier exit when standards fail.

Course Methodology

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- Facilitated sessions built on real supplier codes, audit reports, and ESG data.
- Case workshops on labour violations, environmental breaches, and supplier exit.
- Due diligence exercises using risk-screening questionnaires and scorecards.
- Spreadsheet drills on carbon and cost comparison of sourcing options.
- Group exercise on a sustainable sourcing strategy for a chosen category.

Who Should Take This Course

- Procurement and category managers working with international suppliers.
- Sustainability and ESG officers.
- Compliance, ethics, and human rights officers.
- Supply chain risk and audit professionals.
- Contract managers writing sustainability clauses.
- Corporate responsibility and reporting staff.

Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices Course Outlines

Day 1: Sustainability and Ethics in Procurement

- The business case for sustainable and ethical sourcing.
- Environmental, social, and governance dimensions of purchasing.
- Regulatory landscape: due diligence laws and disclosure requirements.
- Ethics principles: fairness, transparency, and conflict of interest.
- Anti-bribery and anti-corruption expectations in international buying.
- Stakeholder expectations: investors, customers, and communities.
- Procurement's role in corporate sustainability commitments.

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Day 2: Supplier Codes of Conduct and Due Diligence

- Drafting a supplier code of conduct with enforceable requirements.
- Labour standards, working hours, wages, and freedom of association.
- Health, safety, and environmental requirements in the code.
- Supplier self-assessment questionnaires and risk screening.
- On-site audits, third-party verification, and corrective action plans.
- Beneficial ownership and subcontractor visibility.
- Contractual clauses that make the code binding.

Day 3: Human Rights and Social Risk in Supply Chains

- Human rights due diligence steps and severest-risk prioritisation.
- Modern slavery, forced labour, and child labour indicators.
- Migrant labour, recruitment fees, and ethical recruitment practice.
- Grievance mechanisms and whistleblowing channels for workers.
- Conflict minerals and responsible sourcing of raw materials.
- Community impact and land rights considerations.
- Remediation, remedy, and responsible exit approaches.

Day 4: Environmental Impact and Circular Procurement

- Environmental criteria in specifications and tenders.
- Carbon accounting basics: scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions in supply chains.
- Transport mode, packaging, and logistics emissions decisions.
- Water, waste, and hazardous material requirements.

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- Circular procurement: reuse, repair, remanufacture, and take-back.
- Whole-life costing and total cost of ownership with environmental factors.
- Eco-labels, certifications, and verifying environmental claims.

Day 5: Measurement, Reporting, and Governance

- Sustainability KPIs for suppliers and categories.
- Supplier scorecards with environmental and social metrics.
- Reporting frameworks and disclosure expectations.
- Internal governance, escalation, and sustainability committees.
- Supplier development, training, and capability building.
- Managing non-compliance, suspension, and supplier exit.
- Building a sustainable and ethical sourcing roadmap.

Conclusion

By successfully completing the Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices Training Course, participants will have acquired a solid working knowledge of sustainability and ethics principles, supplier codes of conduct, social and environmental due diligence, human rights and modern slavery risk, environmental and circular procurement, and sustainability measurement and reporting. They will leave able to embed responsible practice in sourcing decisions, respond to due diligence obligations, and hold suppliers to standards they can verify. Gentex Training Center delivers this programme with procurement, compliance, and sustainability practitioners who apply these practices in live organisations.

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FAQs for the Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices course

Q1 What is the "Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices" course about?

It is a five-day programme on embedding responsible practice in cross-border buying. It covers supplier codes of conduct, social and environmental due diligence, human rights and modern slavery risk, environmental and circular procurement, and sustainability measurement and reporting.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices" course?

Participants reduce exposure to labour and environmental incidents in their supply chain, meet due diligence and disclosure obligations with documented evidence, and protect brand and investor confidence. They also gain supplier scorecards that turn sustainability commitments into measurable performance.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices" course?

You will gain supplier code of conduct design and enforcement, social and environmental due diligence, human rights and modern slavery risk assessment, and environmental and circular procurement with sustainability KPI measurement.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices" course?

The course works with supplier codes of conduct and binding contractual clauses, sustainability self-assessment questionnaires, on-site audits and third-party verification, corrective action plans, human rights due diligence steps with severest-risk prioritisation, modern slavery and forced labour indicators, ethical recruitment principles, grievance mechanisms for workers, conflict minerals due diligence, environmental criteria in specifications, scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon accounting, circular procurement principles covering reuse and take-back, whole-life costing, eco-labels and certification verification, supplier scorecards with ESG metrics, and sustainability disclosure frameworks.

Q5 How is the "Sustainable & Ethical International Procurement Practices" course applied in real-world practice?

Teams apply it when writing a supplier code or sustainability clause, screening a new overseas supplier, responding to a labour violation allegation, comparing transport options on emissions and cost, preparing a due diligence report for disclosure, and deciding on remediation or exit for a non-compliant vendor.