



Internal Control & Compliance Course

30 August – 3 September 2027
Cape Town (South Africa)



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Introduction

The Internal Control & Compliance course provides a foundation for understanding how organizations design, operate, monitor, and improve internal controls to support reliable governance and regulatory compliance. It examines control frameworks, risk assessment, policies, procedures, segregation of duties, authorization mechanisms, documentation, monitoring, and corrective actions. Participants explore how effective internal controls protect assets, improve financial reporting, strengthen operational discipline, and reduce compliance risks. The program addresses compliance management, control testing, evidence evaluation, exception handling, and reporting practices across business functions. It emphasizes linking control activities to organizational objectives, risk exposure, accountability, and continuous improvement. It develops a practical understanding of internal control and compliance principles for informed professional decision-making.

Targeted Groups

This Internal Control & Compliance training targets professionals seeking knowledge and skills:

- Internal auditors strengthening control evaluation.
- Compliance officers managing regulatory obligations and control requirements.
- Finance professionals improving financial controls and reporting reliability.
- Risk managers assessing control weaknesses and operational exposure.
- Managers overseeing policies, approvals, accountability, and process discipline.
- Governance professionals supporting effective organizational oversight and compliance.
- Control specialists developing monitoring, testing, and remediation capabilities.
- Professionals preparing for internal control responsibilities.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Internal Control & Compliance course:

- Explain internal control principles, purposes, components, and organizational value.
- Identify key control risks affecting financial, operational, and compliance processes.
- Analyze control environments, risk assessments, and control activities systematically.
- Distinguish preventive, detective, corrective, manual, and automated controls.
- Evaluate segregation of duties, authorization, documentation, and access controls.
- Examine compliance requirements and their relationship with internal control systems.
- Apply control testing concepts using suitable evidence and evaluation criteria.
- Recognize control deficiencies, exceptions, root causes, and consequences.
- Assess monitoring activities and management oversight.
- Develop structured approaches for documenting findings and control gaps.
- Recommend proportionate corrective actions and remediation priorities.
- Interpret control performance information for informed management decisions.
- Strengthen awareness of accountability, ethics, governance, and compliance culture.
- Connect internal controls with enterprise risk management and business objectives.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Internal Control & Compliance program:

- Control framework interpretation and application.
- Internal control design and evaluation.
- Compliance risk identification and assessment.
- Risk and control matrix development.
- Segregation of duties analysis.
- Control activity classification and assessment.
- Evidence review and control testing.
- Deficiency identification and root-cause analysis.
- Monitoring and compliance assurance.
- Corrective action evaluation and prioritization.
- Control documentation and reporting.
- Governance and accountability awareness.
- Continuous control improvement.

Real-world Case Studies

In this Internal Control & Compliance training, participants develop skills through the following cases:

- A finance department reviews weak approval controls causing payment errors.
- An organization evaluates segregation of duties across procurement and accounts payable.
- A compliance team investigates policy exceptions and reporting gaps.
- Internal auditors assess evidence supporting financial and operational controls.
- Management reviews a control deficiency, identifies its root cause, and prioritizes remediation.

Course Content

Unit 1: Foundations of Internal Control & Compliance

- Define internal control and its purpose.
- Link controls with objectives and risks.
- Identify key control framework components.
- Examine the control environment and accountability.
- Distinguish compliance from governance and risk management.
- Review regulatory compliance responsibilities.
- Examine principles of transparency and accountability.
- Identify consequences of weak controls.

Unit 2: Risk Assessment and Control Design

- Explain risk assessment in control planning.
- Identify financial, operational, strategic, and compliance risks.
- Analyze inherent and residual risk.
- Assess likelihood, impact, and risk exposure.
- Develop a risk and control matrix.
- Evaluate preventive and detective controls.
- Examine segregation of duties and authorization limits.
- Assess control objectives and required evidence.
- Match control strength with risk levels.

Unit 3: Control Activities and Compliance Management

- Examine policies, procedures, and approvals.
- Evaluate financial control activities.
- Review control documentation requirements.
- Compare manual and automated controls.
- Examine compliance monitoring activities.
- Identify control owners and responsibilities.
- Assess controls supporting regulatory compliance.
- Review exception approval and escalation.
- Identify gaps in compliance evidence.

Unit 4: Control Testing, Monitoring, and Assurance

- Explain internal control testing purposes.
- Identify appropriate control testing evidence.
- Examine sampling and inspection methods.
- Review observation, inquiry, and reperformance.
- Distinguish design from operating effectiveness.
- Evaluate exceptions and control deficiencies.
- Examine monitoring activities and control weaknesses.
- Review internal audit and compliance assurance.
- Assess evidence quality and reliability.
- Determine appropriate monitoring frequency.

Unit 5: Deficiency Management and Continuous Improvement

- Classify control deficiencies by significance.
- Analyze root causes of control failures.
- Evaluate corrective actions and remediation plans.
- Assign remediation owners and priorities.
- Examine control findings and management reporting.
- Assess remediation follow-up procedures.
- Explore continuous control improvement.
- Link control performance with compliance outcomes.
- Identify recurring weaknesses and delayed actions.
- Apply lessons from control failures.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

Effective internal controls link risk management, compliance, governance, financial reliability, and operational performance through clear responsibilities and measurable controls. Strong compliance management relies on continuous assessment, evidence-based testing, timely remediation, and ongoing control improvement.