Methods for Examining Root Cause
(1-Day Option)

About This Course

Course Description

This course will provide you with some of the key root cause analysis tools and techniques that can be utilized in the planning, fieldwork, and reporting phases of an internal audit to enhance audit effectiveness, strengthen audit observations reported, and facilitate deeper discussions with management on issues identified. These tools can be used apart from or in conjunction with existing audit methodologies, tools, and techniques. You will have the opportunity to practice and apply the skills learned during the course through a case study and exercises, which should enable you to integrate the tools and techniques into your audit engagement activities.

This course is designed for:
- Chief audit executives who would like to gain an understanding of how root cause analysis concepts, tools, and techniques can be incorporated into their internal audit department's audit strategy to enhance audit effectiveness and add value.
- Audit managers interested in learning how to lead and manage root cause analysis efforts on their audit projects.
- Lead Auditors who want to develop skills for using root cause analysis tools and techniques in supervising their audit projects.
- Senior and staff auditors seeking an opportunity to practice root cause analysis tools and techniques on their audit engagements.

Course Objectives
- Identify the purpose, importance, and key terms of root cause analysis.
- Identify the relevant IPPF *Standards* and related root cause analysis Implementation Guidance.
- Identify the importance of process documentation and understanding it as the groundwork for effective root cause analysis, utilizing the process profile worksheet.
- Identify measures of success and trigger events as key elements in root cause analysis.
- Apply root cause analysis concepts, tools, techniques, skills, and templates during planning and fieldwork.
- Explain how root cause analysis can be used to significantly enhance reporting of audit results.

Course Topics

Root Cause Analysis Overview
- What is root cause analysis?
- Purpose and importance of root cause analysis.
- Key root cause analysis terms.
- Required auditor skills for root cause analysis.
- Benefits of root cause analysis.

Root Cause Analysis in Planning
- Audit planning phase purpose and structure.
- Identify the relevant IPPF Standards related to RCA in the planning process.
- Discuss various Tools applied during planning process.
  - SIPOC diagram.
  - Trigger events.
  - Measures of success.
  - Process profile worksheet.
  - Flowcharting.
  - Failure mode and effects analysis.

Root Cause Analysis in Fieldwork
- Audit fieldwork phase – Purpose and structure.
- Discuss tools used in root cause identification.
  - The 5 Whys.
  - Fishbone diagram.
  - Fault tree analysis.
- Discuss tools used in Root cause measurement and prioritization.
  - Cause and Effect.
  - Pareto chart.
  - Scatter diagram.

Reporting Root Cause Analysis Reporting
- Relevant IPPF *Standards* and related Implementation Guidance.
- Components of an audit observation.
- Tying root cause analysis audit findings to planning documentation.
- Matching and inking root causes to recommendations and management action plans.

Course Information

Course Duration: 1 Days

CPE Hours Available: 8

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Field(s) of Study: Auditing

Prerequisite(s): Completion of the Tools & Techniques I: New Internal Auditor course and the Beyond the Basics: Essential Skills and Practices course, or equivalent experience.

Advance Preparation: None

Delivery Format(s): On-site Training (Group-Live)