Smart Contract Automation Training Course: Clause Coding, Triggers, Oracles and Dispute Handling

14 – 18 June 2027
Cape town

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Programme Summary

Smart contract automation is the subject of this one-week training course for contract and procurement managers, ending in an automated clause specification for one supply agreement. Contract terms that run on code remove manual steps, but a badly coded trigger, an unreliable data feed or an untested dispute path can release, suspend or end a contract in error. The programme moves from how automated clauses work to clause coding, triggers, oracles and dispute handling, using one prepared supply agreement. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme on smart contract automation to mixed-organisation cohorts.

The Business Case

Organisations in manufacturing, energy and logistics are moving routine steps such as payment release and renewal into digital contracts. Managers who can judge which clauses suit automation, specify the logic and control the data behind it can approve automated terms with a record of why each trigger was set and who may override it.

- Payment Errors: Fall when trigger conditions are tested before a clause goes live.
- Cycle Time: Shortens when routine confirmations and releases no longer wait for manual handling.
- Dispute Exposure: Narrows when failures follow a defined pause and escalation path with an audit trail.

Principles and Evidence Base

- ISO/TR 23455: The ISO technical report giving an overview of smart contracts and their interactions in blockchain and distributed ledger systems, applied in Session 1 to frame what a smart contract is and how it connects to a ledger.
- Conditional Logic: The principle that an action follows only when stated conditions are met, applied in Session 2 to turn written clauses into trigger and action rules.
- Data Reliability: The principle that automated decisions are only as sound as the facts feeding them, applied in Session 3 to select and test oracle sources.
- Audit Trail: The principle that every automated step leaves a reviewable record, applied in Session 4 to dispute handling.

Intended Participants

- Contract managers who draft, negotiate and administer agreements with payment and delivery conditions.
- Procurement leaders who decide which contract steps can be automated across supplier portfolios.
- Legal and commercial advisers who judge enforceability.
- Digital transformation owners who bring ledger-based tools into contracting processes.

Typical settings include manufacturing, energy, logistics and public bodies.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate which clauses in a contract suit automation and which need human judgement.
2. Participants will be able to construct trigger and action rules from written payment, delivery and renewal clauses.
3. Participants will be able to compare oracle sources and diagnose the risks of an unreliable data feed.
4. Participants will be able to design test cases that expose faults in coded clauses before use.
5. Participants will be able to prioritise dispute handling steps, including pause, escalation and override rights.
6. Participants will be able to justify an automated clause specification to commercial and legal reviewers.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Automated Contract Principles

How does a contract clause run without manual action?

- Smart Contract Definition Map
- ISO/TR 23455 Interaction Overview
- Clause Automation Suitability Screen
- Digital Signature and Record Basics
- Contract Lifecycle Automation Map

Day 2: Clause Coding and Triggers

How is a written clause turned into a testable trigger and action?

- Clause Inventory Review
- Conditional Logic Notation
- Trigger and Action Table
- Payment Release Rule Design
- Exception and Ambiguity Register

Day 3: Oracles and External Data

How is an outside fact trusted enough to move a payment?

- Oracle Source Selection Matrix
- Data Feed Reliability Test
- Fallback and Manual Override Rules
- Signing Authority Map
- Audit Trail Design

Day 4: Testing and Dispute Handling

What happens when an automated clause fails or is challenged?

- Clause Test Case Library
- Failure Mode Review
- Dispute Pause and Escalation Path
- Legal Enforceability Checklist
- Change and Termination Control

Day 5: Specification for One Supply Agreement

Do the findings join into a specification a contract owner can approve?

- Applying the Session 1 Suitability Screen
- Finalising the Session 2 Trigger and Action Table
- Testing the Session 3 Fallback Rules
- Running the Session 4 Test Case Library
- Completing the Automated Clause Specification

Methodology

The programme is a structured exercise built on one prepared supply agreement. Participants select clauses, write the logic, choose data sources and test the result, then defend the specification to peers acting as reviewers.

- Suggested activity: Converting a payment clause into a trigger and action table.
- Suggested activity: Rating three oracle sources for reliability and fallback.
- Suggested activity: Running a failed delivery confirmation through the dispute path.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes an automated clause specification for one supply agreement. It holds a suitability screen, a trigger and action table, oracle source choices with fallback rules, a test case library and a dispute path. At work it goes to commercial and legal reviewers and becomes the template for later agreements.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is smart contract automation suitable for managers with no coding background?

Yes. Smart contract automation is taught through clause logic, tables and prepared exercises rather than programming. You need responsibility for drafting, buying or administering contracts, but no earlier experience of ledger tools.

Which standard does smart contract automation rest on in this course?

Smart contract automation here rests on ISO/TR 23455 for how smart contracts interact with ledger systems.

How is the specification from smart contract automation used at work?

You take the automated clause specification to your commercial and legal reviewers, run its test cases before a clause goes live, and reuse its template.

How does smart contract automation differ from a programme on contract management?

Smart contract automation concentrates on coding clause logic, data feeds and failure handling, while a programme on contract management concentrates on the wider cycle of negotiation, administration and renewal.