



Note on
The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
“Explained: From Certification to QCO Compliance”

Written By



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Origin of BIS

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) traces its roots to the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), established on 6 January 1947, following a memorandum issued on 3 September 1946 by the Department of Industries and Supplies. Initially focused on standardization, ISI expanded to product certification through the ISI Mark Scheme in 1955 under the ISI (Certification Marks) Act, 1952.

To strengthen its functions, the BIS Act was passed on 26 November 1986, and BIS officially came into existence on 1 April 1987. It took over ISI's responsibilities with a broader objective of promoting a culture of quality across stakeholders including government, industry, scientists, and consumers. BIS is governed by a 25-member body chaired by the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs.

About BIS

BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) is India's National Standards Body, established under the BIS Act, 2016. It aims to ensure the quality, safety, and reliability of goods in India through standardization and certification.

BIS functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

Objectives of BIS

- Ensure availability of safe and quality goods.
- Protect consumer health.
- Promote standardization.
- Facilitate trade by eliminating substandard goods.
- Environmental protection.
- Develop a robust standardization and quality ecosystem.

BIS Registration

BIS Registration refers to the process by which manufacturers (domestic or foreign) obtain certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to confirm that their products conform to Indian safety, quality, and performance standards. It is mandatory

for certain notified products under various schemes like the Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS) or Quality Control Orders (QCOs).

Types of BIS Certifications:

- ISI Mark Certification (for Indian manufacturers)
- Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS) (for electronics/IT)
- Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS)
- Hallmarking (for gold/silver articles)

Who Needs BIS Registration?

- **Domestic & Foreign Manufacturers** of products under CRS/QCO.
- **Importers** must ensure suppliers have BIS certification.

Key Sectors:

Electronics, Electricals, Automotive, Chemicals, Cement, Steel, Jewelry

BIS Registration Process (CRS)

- Check if your product falls under BIS scope.
- Conduct product testing at a BIS-recognized lab.
- File application online with required documents.
- BIS reviews test report and applications.

Steps involved in Registration

- Applicants are required to **apply online** for grant of Registration.
- Test reports, in original, issued from labs recognized by BIS under CRS to be submitted with application.
- All foreign applicants having no liaison office or branch office located in India have to appoint Authorized Indian Representative(AIR) as per the guidelines issued by BIS in the prescribed nomination form.
- Authorized Indian Representatives of applicants located outside India have to submit an affidavit cum undertaking as per Format A/Format B as mentioned in the guidelines.

- All applicants located in India have to submit an affidavit cum undertaking as per Format C.
- Fee to be deposited as per the fee structure for CRS.
- Fill the application form (Form VI) online. Refer the checklist of documents to be submitted along with the application form.
- Hard copies of application to be submitted **within 15 days** of online submission of the application. In case of non-receipt of hard copies of application within fifteen days of online submission, the application **will be treated as closed**.
- BIS will scrutinize the applications. (Refer some of the commonly observed shortcomings observed by BIS during scrutiny of application.)
- All queries on the application will be raised by BIS online and have to be replied by applicants online.
- The shortcomings communicated have to be complied by the applicant **without any delay**.
- The applicant will be responsible for overall delay in Grant of Registration in case of incomplete application and delayed response to queries.
- Once query is satisfactorily resolved and **affidavit cum undertaking has been submitted**, Registration is granted by BIS.
- The grant of Registration letter will be uploaded on the applicant's portal.
- Registered manufacturers can request for inclusion of new models of the same product and brand under same registration number.
- Registration is initially granted for 2 years which has to be renewed after every 2 years. For details on renewal.
- Refer to guidelines for use of Standard Mark and labelling requirements under BIS Compulsory Registration Scheme for Electronic and IT Products, after Grant of Registration.

NOTE

- BIS follows **First Come First Serve** principle for processing of applications from the date of receipt of hard copies.

Timeline:

- Average time taken for grant of licence is generally six months from the date of receipt of complete application and its recording. It may vary for reasons like delay in response to queries raised, if any; organizing inspection(s); transportation of samples and remittance of dues, etc.

Fee Structure: -

- The fees applicable to **Applicants and Licensees under the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS)** are the same as those applicable to domestic manufacturers, with additional charges for overseas inspections. For detailed fees structure click on www.bis.gov.in

What is BIS NOC?

No Objection Certificate (NOC) is issued when:

- Products are for R&D, testing, repair, or exhibitions.
- Not for retail sale.
- Not covered by BIS standards.
- Imported under SEZ/EOU/Advance Authorization schemes.

Exemptions from BIS Registration

Category	Conditions
R&D/Testing/Personal Use	Non-commercial use
Not in BIS Scope	Product not notified
Raw materials	Not sold as standalone items
Re-export/Repair cases	Valid proof required
Advance Authorisation Holders	If goods are not sold in India
EOU/SEZ	If goods are not cleared to DTA

Clarification:

- **Advance Authorization:** Exempt for export production only.
- **EOU:** Full export required; DTA sale requires BIS.
- **SEZ:** No BIS needed unless product enters DTA.

Note: NOC may still be required with end-use declarations.

Documents Checklist:

For BIS Registration:	For NOC:
• Form VI • Factory License/Layout • Business Registration • PAN & GST • Product Manual • BIS Lab Test Report • Authorization Letter • Brand Authorization (if applicable)	• Cover Letter • Invoice/Packing List • Technical Brochure • End-Use Declaration • IEC Code

HSN-Wise Products Under Mandatory BIS

HSN	Product	Standard	QCO Authority
850440	Power Adapters	IS 13252	MeitY
851712	Mobile Phones	IS 13252	MeitY
847141	Laptops	IS 13252	MeitY
850431	LED Drivers	IS 15885	MeitY
940540	LED Street Lights	IS 10322	BIS
852580	CCTV	IS 13252	MeitY
850440	UPS/Inverters	IS 16242	Electrical
721420	Steel Bars	IS 1786	Min. of Steel

Quality Control Order (QCO)

A **Quality Control Order (QCO)** is a legal notification issued under BIS Act or other legislation mandating BIS compliance for specific products.

Legal Backing:

- **BIS Act, 2016** (Sec 16)
- **Essential Commodities Act, Environmental Protection Act, etc.**

Objectives:

- Public safety
- Consumer protection
- Environmental safety
- Trade fairness

Key Elements:

- Product names and standards
- Effective date
- Coverage (imported/domestic)
- Exemptions
- Enforcement authority
- Penalties for non-compliance

Implications of QCOs

For Manufacturers:

- Mandatory BIS certification.
- Standard Marking required.

For Importers:

- No clearance without BIS.
- Suppliers must be BIS-certified.

For Exporters to India:

- Must obtain BIS.
- Other global marks (CE, UL) not accepted.

For Retailers:

- No stocking of non-compliant products.

Examples of QCOs

Product	Standard	Ministry
ACs	IS 1391	MoEF-Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Toys	IS 9873	DPIIT-Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade
Footwear	IS 15298	DPIIT-Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade
LED Drivers	IS 15885	MeitY-Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
Chemicals	IS 252, 7585	Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers
Helmets	IS 4151	MoRTH-Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Consequences of Non-Compliance

- Product seizure
- Fines, prosecution
- Denied customs clearance
- Reputational damage

Benefits of QCO & BIS Compliance

- Consumer confidence
- Controls substandard imports
- Boosts Make in India
- Aligns India with global standards

Conclusion:

In today's highly regulated and quality-conscious market, compliance with BIS standards is not merely a legal formality, it's a crucial step toward building consumer trust, ensuring product reliability, and enabling seamless market access.

Whether you are a domestic or foreign manufacturer, importer, or brand owner, navigating the complexities of BIS certification, QCO mandates, documentation, and regulatory timelines can be challenging.

At Bizsolindia, we specialize in delivering end-to-end professional services to help you stay fully compliant with BIS provisions. We provide expert guidance in every step of the way including coordination with technical expert team.

Our experienced team ensures that you can focus on your core business while we take care of the compliance journey. With Bizsolindia as your trusted compliance partner, you gain not just certification but confidence, efficiency, and peace of mind.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on BIS Certification

Q.No.	Question	Answer
1	What is a licence?	A licence is granted under Section 13 of BIS Act 2016 to use the Standard Mark on goods conforming to a specific standard.
2	I am a manufacturer and want to apply for BIS product certification. How do I find the Indian Standard Number?	Search the Indian Standard at manakonline.in or contact BIS technical department at bis.gov.in .
3	Is BIS licence compulsory for my product?	Yes, if the product is under compulsory certification. Refer: BIS Compulsory List .
4	What are the requirements for applying for BIS certification?	Production infrastructure, process and quality control, and in-house testing facilities as per relevant Indian Standard.
5	How does BIS grant the licence?	By inspecting the manufacturing unit and testing the product for standard conformity.
6	What is the procedure for getting BIS licence?	Two options are available under Scheme I. Refer to BIS Guidelines for details.
7	Where do I submit my BIS licence application?	Apply online at www.manakonline.in . Refer to the applicant manual before applying.
8	Are technical guidelines available for products under certification?	Yes. Product Manuals are available on bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment > Product Certification > Product Specific Guidelines.
9	My product doesn't have a Product Manual. Can I still apply?	Yes. Apply as 'All India First Licence' under Scheme I. BIS will assist with guidelines.
10	Can I apply for different products in one application from the same factory?	No, separate applications are needed for each product and Indian Standard.
11	Can I submit one application for the same product from different factories?	No, apply separately for each factory location.
12	Which lab's test report is valid for BIS licence?	Only BIS or BIS-recognized/empanelled labs. See: IS-wise Labs .
13	How long are test reports valid under Option-2?	Test reports must not be older than 90 days.
14	What are the certification fees?	₹1,000 (application), ₹7,000/man-day (inspection), ₹1,000 annual + marking fee.
15	What is the licence grant timeline?	Option-2: ~1 month; Option-1: ~4 months (may vary).

Q.No.	Question	Answer
16	What are the conditions to use the BIS Standard Mark?	Refer Regulation 6 of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.
17	What are penalties for non-compliance with licence conditions?	Licence may be cancelled as per Regulation 11.
18	What is the validity of BIS licence?	Valid up to 2 years initially; renewable for up to 5 years.
19	How to renew a BIS licence?	Apply online via Manakonline with production details and required fee.
20	What is deferment of a licence?	It occurs due to late renewal application/fee or licence suspension.
21	Does BIS conduct surveillance?	Yes, through surprise factory and market inspections.
22	What are a licensee's duties during factory surveillance?	Cooperate with BIS, provide access to records, allow testing and sample dispatch.
23	What happens if a manufacturer doesn't cooperate during surveillance?	The licence may be suspended or cancelled.
24	Can I use the same licence for all product varieties?	No, only for those mentioned in the licence scope. Apply for scope expansion if needed.
25	How to inform BIS about change of address or relocation?	Notify BIS with documents. Stop using the mark until BIS verifies the new location.
26	When can a licence be suspended?	As per Paragraph 11 of Scheme I and Regulation 10 of BIS Regulations, 2018.
27	When can a licence be cancelled?	As per Regulation 11 of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.
28	How can I participate in BIS standard formulation?	Join technical committees or submit suggestions via email/BIS portal.
29	Do I need a BIS licence for products under compulsory certification if they are for export only?	Generally, no, but check the QCO or contact the concerned Ministry for confirmation.
30	Do importers need a BIS licence for mandatory items?	No. Foreign manufacturers must apply under FMCS.
31	How to verify the authenticity of ISI-marked products?	Check IS number and licence number at: Online Info .
32	Can I get an exemption for non-standard steel grades?	No, contact the relevant Ministry (e.g., Ministry of Steel).
33	What are the penalties for misuse of ISI mark?	Refer Section 29(3) of BIS Act, 2016.
34	What are penalties for selling uncertified products that require ISI mark?	Refer Section 29(3) of BIS Act, 2016.
35	Can I appeal against a BIS decision?	Yes. Refer Section 34 of BIS Act and Rule 37 of BIS Rules, 2018.

Q.No.	Question	Answer
36	Do I need BIS licences for multiple manufacturing units?	Yes, each unit requires its own BIS licence.
37	Is regular product testing required after getting a BIS licence?	Yes, refer to the product manual's Scheme of Inspection and Testing (SIT).
38	Can I subcontract some tests due to costly equipment?	Yes, if allowed ('S' category tests). Others ('R') must be done in-house.
39	Can MSMEs in a cluster share a common lab?	Yes, under Cluster Based Testing Facilities as per BIS guidelines.
40	Can large companies share a lab across units?	Yes, as per Annex-X of BIS Guidelines for Grant of Licence.

