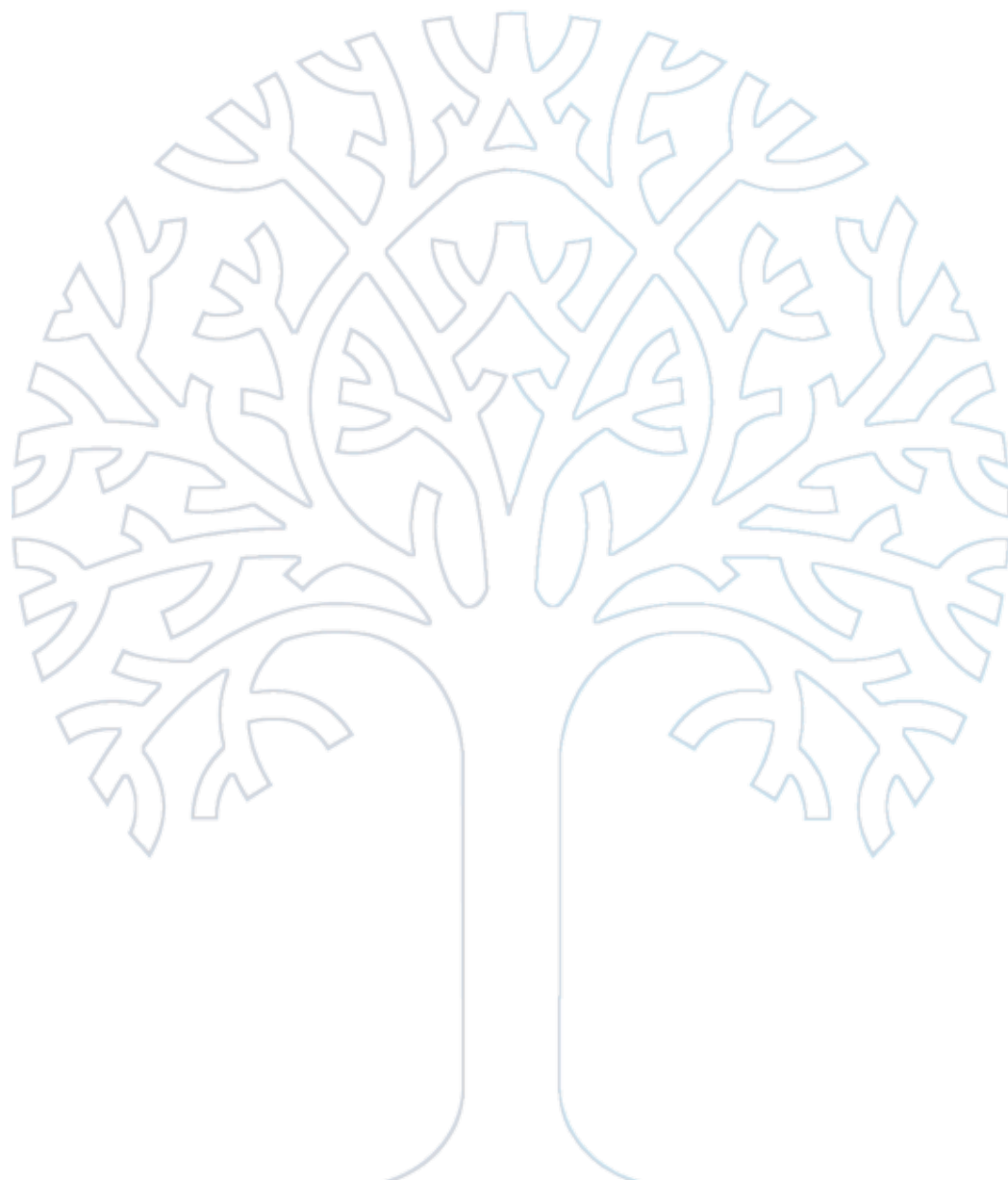




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BIS amicus

A monthly e-newsletter on developments related
to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys

India

Table of Contents

News Nuggets..... 3

Article

 Scheme-X of BIS: Navigating through
 the complexities.....10

QCO Updates..... 18





News Nuggets

Draft E-Commerce Guidelines by BIS

The Bureau of Indian Standards has introduced draft guidelines for e-commerce platforms, titled as '*E-COMMERCE- PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR SELF-GOVERNANCE*'. The guidelines lay down several self-regulation measures to safeguard consumers from fraudulent practices in the rapidly evolving e-commerce ecosystem of India. The draft is currently in its wide circulation stage and the relevant stakeholders can furnish their comments on the same till 15 February 2025. *LKS BIS Team will shortly publish a detailed article on these guidelines.*

[Source: E-Commerce- Principles and Guidelines for Self-Governance (Wide Circulation Draft) issued by BIS on its Standards Portal, as available [here](#).]

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) plans to initiate class action against those selling substandard goods

The Central Consumer Protection Authority is planning to initiate class action against firms/ companies that fail to meet quality standards. Such proposal of class action comes after the Department of Consumer Affairs noted that consumer durable firms are using different, substandard parts for products sold in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, making them less efficient than those approved during quality test certification by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

[Source: Mint news, as available [here](#).]

MNRE issues a new Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued a revised Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025 to ensure compulsory compliance with the latest BIS norms. The Order lays down a minimum efficiency criterion for solar modules, inverters, as well as storage batteries. The updated provisions further include comprehensive testing and efficiency requirements, along with new safety measures that align with global benchmarks. The Order comes into force on 27 July 2025.

[Source: Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025, as available [here](#).]

Consumer electronics industry seeks extension of timelines for implementing QCOs

The Consumer Electronics & Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) President has recommended extending the timeline for implementing Quality Control Order (QCO) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certifications to ease the transition for manufacturers. He also sought a second round of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for high-value components like compressors and motors, while highlighting the need for reducing tariffs and rationalising taxes so as to enable domestic manufacturers to compete at a global scale.

[Source: KNN News as available [here](#).]

Weavers' Association requests delay in BIS enforcement

The Federation of Gujarat Weavers Welfare Association (FOGWWA) has made an appeal to the Union Textile Ministry, requesting a postponement of the BIS/ QCO implementation for textile machinery until March 2027. FOGWWA President Ashok Jirawala emphasized on the reliance of the textile industry on high-speed, advanced technology machines imported from overseas. It was further highlighted that at present, no domestic entity manufactures such modern technological equipment.

[Source: KNN news, as available [here](#).]

BIS boosts standardization ties with Africa and Latin America

BIS recently hosted a roundtable discussion, aimed at strengthening collaboration with African and Latin American nations in the field of standardization. Officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Consumer Affairs (including BIS authorities), along with Ambassadors, Commissioners, and representatives of more than 25 countries from these countries, were a part of the discussion.

Amongst other things, the discussion revolved around capacity-building initiatives, infrastructure development, and safety codes such as National Building Code (NBC) and the National Electrical Code (NEC).

[Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Press Release, as available [here](#).]

India targets to achieve 10,000 GI tags by 2030

With a vision to close the gap with competitors like China, which has one of the largest GI product portfolios, the Indian government has set an ambitious target of achieving 10,000 geographical indication (GI) tags by 2030. In light of the same, Shri Piyush Goyal called for collaborations with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to work for better

[Source: Mint news, as available [here](#).]

Awareness programme by BIS

On 29 January 2025, BIS organised an awareness programme on '*Indian Standards on Artificial Limbs, Rehabilitation Appliances and Equipment for the persons with disability*' in Chennai. BIS officials at the programme noted that the Indian Standards (IS) for artificial limbs, rehabilitation appliances and mobility equipment would help ensure functionality, safety, and accessibility for the customers. With the help of BIS specifications, manufacturers will also be able to align with national and global standards.

[Source: The Hindu news, as available [here](#).]

First convention focusing on Healthcare Sector

An Annual Convention was organised by BIS on the healthcare sector, for Deans and HODs of academic institutions and research organisations, at its National Institute of Training for Standardisation, Noida.

Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General, BIS emphasised that there is a need to build academia-industry collaboration in order to help shape standards that drive innovation and economic growth in the country. He also urged experts to actively participate in BIS technical committees, engage in R&D projects, and integrate standards into engineering curricula to enhance learning.

[Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Press Release, as available [here](#).]

LKS Comments

Being a member of the relevant technical committee in BIS can be extremely benefitting. We advise the stakeholders to map the relevant technical committees for their businesses and ensure active participation in the same. Such participation may have the following advantages:

- Influence on Standards Formulation
- Access to Early Information
- Improved Credibility
- Influencing Regulatory Policies
- Knowledge and Training
- Global Recognition
- Networking Opportunities
- Competitive Edge
- Enhanced Compliance and Risk Management

Cement exports from Nepal affected by delay in renewal of BIS mark

The export of Nepali cement has come to a halt as BIS has not yet renewed the BIS certification. Raunak Agrawal, Managing Director of Balaji Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd. informed, *"We applied for renewal three months in advance before the deadline. However, the BIS of India has neither renewed it nor has explained the reason. All our efforts did not work. Now, the government needs to take the initiative in this regard."*

As per the Bhairahawa Customs Office, cement and cement clinker are two of the top 10 items exported to India *via* Belahiya.

[Source: The Rising Nepal news, as available [here](#).]

Grant of All India / Global First Licence

In January 2025, BIS granted All India/ Global First Licence to 10 companies for their respective products and corresponding Indian Standards. The details of the same are discussed at length later in this newsletter.

[Source: What's New – BIS as available [here](#)]



Article

Scheme-X of BIS: Navigating through the complexities

By Rahul Limaye and Jhanvi Arora

With regards to the two orders issued under Scheme - X of BIS, the manufacturers of machinery, equipment, and electrical equipment such as switchgears have been facing various issues in ensuring compliance. The article in this issue of BIS Amicus strives to unfold the several complexities and ambiguities pertaining to this scheme. The article provides a brief overview of the processes involved in grant of license, labelling and marking requirements, key elements of a Technical File, etc.

Scheme – X under Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018

Vide Notification dated 16 March 2022, BIS issued the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Amendment Regulations, 2022 to introduce a new conformity assessment scheme, viz. **Scheme – X**. The same was titled as '*Conformity assessment scheme for grant of licence to use or apply Standard Mark for goods and articles as per the specified requirements*'.

The Scheme lays down several provisions related to its scope, key definitions, processes for grant of license/ certificate of conformity, labelling and marking requirements, cancellation and suspension, along with relevant forms required to be submitted by the manufacturers.

Scope of Scheme - X

Under this Scheme, the manufacturer may be granted –

- a) licence for demonstration of conformity of goods or articles;
- b) demonstration of conformity of management system as per Scheme – III;
- c) certificate of conformity instead of licence in case the product is not desired to be manufactured on a continuous basis. In such a case, the manufacturer shall not be authorised to use the Standard mark.

One notable provision introduced under Scheme – X is the requirement of a Technical File, as discussed below.

Technical File under Scheme – X

Technical File has been defined under paragraph 2 (1) of the Scheme. It states that “‘Technical file’ means documentation covering design, manufacture and operation of products to the extent applicable and necessary for demonstration of compliance of conformity”.

For the purpose of submitting an application under this scheme, a manufacture is required to submit all the necessary details pertaining to the product in a technical file, which shall be submitted along with the application.

Para 3(1)(iii) of the Scheme provides a list of all the details that shall be submitted in the technical file, as mentioned hereinbelow:

1. product description with details of variety or grades or type or size as applicable;
2. specified requirements applicable for the product;
3. photograph(s) for identification of the product;
4. manufacturer’s name and complete address, including:
 - a) location plan and plant layout of the factory
 - b) plant layout to indicate the manufacturing area, storage area for raw material/components and finished product, testing laboratory;
5. detail for identification and traceability of product like brand name, trademark, date of manufacturing, batch or lot or serial number etc. as applicable;
6. detail of design of the product including drawing(s) as applicable;

7. description of manufacturing process as relevant, including:
 - a) manufacturing machinery facilities declaration
 - b) copy of agreement or consent letter about the contractual arrangements (in case of sub-contracted arrangements);
8. raw material details as applicable;
9. report of compliance of the product to the specified requirement which may include test report from third party laboratory or from manufacturer's own laboratory as applicable (also known as **product compliance report**);
10. details of in-house quality assurance measures including inspection, test plan and facilities, as applicable,
 - a) the in-house quality assurance measures shall include aspects of quality control of raw materials/components, in-process quality controls, final testing of product, packing and storage.
 - b) test equipment facilities declaration including calibration status, certificates and plan
 - c) quality assurance personnel details
 - d) for sub-contracted arrangements, copy of agreement or consent letter about the contractual arrangements;
11. instructions for use, maintenance, installation, safe operation of the product; as applicable; and
12. any other requirement specified for the product.

Grant of License/ Certificate of Conformity under Scheme – X

Conformity of a product to the specified requirements is established through a product compliance report contained in the technical

file, as mentioned above. The specified requirements shall be the requirements given in the relevant Indian Standard(s) and/or essential requirements applicable for a particular product.

The Bureau grants a licence based on successful assessment of the technical file submitted by the manufacturer which includes review of this product compliance report, supported through evaluation carried out during visit to manufacturing premises and/or any other site, if required.

The evaluation process undertaken by BIS for grant of license/ certificate of conformity under Scheme – X has been briefly explained below:

Within 15 days of receipt of an application, BIS shall examine that all the required documents are submitted.

Upon submission of all the documents, BIS shall examine the conformity of the product by evaluating the technical file. Evaluation Period shall be 45 days.

Evaluation process may include one/ combination of:

- (i) desk evaluation of technical file;
- (ii) inspection & evaluation of technical file through visit to the manufacturing site;
- (iii) inspection of technical file including management system requirements through visit to the site.

Once BIS is satisfied, the decision on grant of licence/ certificate of conformity shall be taken.

Labelling and marking requirements

In case of license:

- i. Each product or the package or both shall be marked with the Standard Mark, as provided below:



- ii. The Standard Mark shall carry the licence number and any other reference to the specified requirement in a visible manner.

In case of certificate of conformity:

The certificate of conformity number shall be marked on the product or package or both. The copy of certificate of conformity shall be provided with the product.

Validity of License and Certificate of Conformity

- i. The licence shall be granted initially for not less than 3 years and up to 6 years.
- ii. The licence may be renewed for a further period of not less than 3 years and up to 6 years.

- iii. The certificate of conformity shall be applicable to a specific product prototype or lot or batch of product only and will not authorize production of similar product on continuous basis.

Orders Issued by Nodal Ministries under Scheme – X

At present, there are two orders issued under this conformity assessment scheme. Both the orders have been issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industries, as mentioned below:

1. Electrical Equipment (Quality Control) Order, 2020

The Electrical Equipment (Quality Control) Order, 2020 was issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industries, initially under Scheme – II of BIS. However, *vide* Electrical Equipment (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2023, the relevant conformity assessment scheme for the QCO was changed to Scheme – X.

The QCO covers 8 product categories of Low-Voltage Switchgear and Control gear. The first phase of implementation began on 10 November 2024.

2. Machinery and Electrical Equipment Safety (Omnibus Technical Regulation) Order, 2024

The Machinery and Electrical Equipment Safety (Omnibus Technical Regulation) Order, 2024, or the OTR Order, was issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industries on 28 August 2024. It is a comprehensive order that covers under its ambit several kinds of

machinery and equipment and their assemblies, sub-assemblies and components as listed in the Order. The Order shall come into force one year after its issuance, i.e. on 28 August 2025.

LKS Comments

For manufacturers, importers, and stakeholders, early preparation for the yet-to-be-enforced Orders is essential. This includes understanding compliance obligations, aligning internal production, engaging with regulatory authorities, etc. As India moves toward a more stringent quality regime, businesses that prioritise compliance with BIS norms will be better positioned to sustain growth, mitigate risks, and gain a competitive edge in the evolving regulatory landscape.

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QCO Updates

QCO Updates – January 2025

For ease of reference, we have compiled a comprehensive set of data covering the following:

- **Upcoming QCOs** – Notified and due for implementation
- **QCOs notified in the Official Gazette:** Published by the respective line Ministries of the Central Government, in consultation with the BIS under Section 16 of the BIS Act, 2016
- **QCOs notified on the WTO-TBT portal, 'ePing':** These are draft QCOs notified by India for WTO member countries to review and give comments. They are yet to be finalized and are not published in the Official Gazette yet.
- **Amendments/extensions** to the existing QCOs

QCOs to be implemented in the upcoming months

In the upcoming months, from February to April, a total of **105 products** will be covered under the ambit of QCOs. Here's an overview of the same:

	February	March	April
No. of Products	15	43	47
Ministry/ Department which has issued the QCO	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) – 15	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) – 29	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) – 26 Ministry of Textiles – 11 Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 6

		Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 8 Ministry of Steel – 6	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - 3 Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology - 1
Products	Wood Based Boards, Plywood and Wooden flush door shutters	Steel products, Electrical Appliances – Skin or haircare, Water Heaters, Cross Recessed Screws, Wrenches, Pliers, Chemicals such as Ethyl Acrylate, Vinyl Acetate Monomer, Polycarbonate, etc.	Textile Products, Stainless Steel Utensils, Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Products, Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances, Solar Thermal Systems, Devices and Components, Fatty Acids, Digital Television Receiver, etc.

Industries likely to be impacted

- Construction;
- Hardware;
- Electrical Appliances;
- Tool manufacturing;
- Textiles;
- Solar Systems;
- Kitchen Utensils;
- Steel; and
- Chemical and Petrochemical Industries/ Companies, among others.

LKS Comments

All the manufacturers (both domestic and foreign) of the products listed above shall be required to obtain BIS certification in order to comply with the QCOs. However, subject to the facts and circumstances of the case, the manufacturers may also seek an exemption or extension of the QCO by drafting a representation to BIS/line ministry, as the case may be.

QCOs notified in the Official Gazette

Sr.No.	Order Title	Date of implementation (for general enterprises)
1.	Air Cooler and Air Filters (Quality Control) Order, 2025	1 April 2025
2.	Electrical Appliances for domestic water heating (Quality Control) Order, 2025	1 March 2025
3.	Flashlight (Quality Control) Order, 2025	21 July 2025
4.	Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025	27 July 2025

LKS Comments

The Air Cooler and Air Filters (Quality Control) Order, 2025 and Electrical Appliances for domestic water heating (Quality Control) Order, 2025, issued under Scheme-I of the BIS conformity assessment schemes, have been issued in supersession of the former Orders, respectively. Relevant stakeholders are advised to carefully peruse the new set of provisions that have been inserted.

Similarly, the Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025 issued under Scheme-II of the conformity assessment schemes, has also been issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to supersede the earlier order, as discussed above.

QCOs notified by India on the WTO-TBT portal – ‘ePing’

No draft QCOs were notified by India on *ePing* last month.

Amendment Orders

Sr. No.	Order Title
1.	Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025
2.	Medical Textiles (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025

LKS Comments - *What's in the Amendment?*

LKS Comments – What's in the Amendment?

- i. The Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025 has been issued to introduce the following exemptions to the original order:
 - a) The QCO shall not apply to import of components of refrigerating appliances by manufacturers who are certified/ have applied for BIS certification, whereby the imports have been made for export purposes. This is subject to certain conditions and reporting requirements as laid out in the Order.
 - b) Further, the QCO shall not apply to import of up to 200 goods or articles per year for research and development purposes. The same shall be subject to certain conditions as laid out in the Order.
- ii. The Medical Textiles (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025 has been issued to introduce the following proviso to the original order:

If any manufacturer who has obtained/ is in the process of obtaining BIS certification declares prior to the commencement of implementation of the QCO its old stock products without BIS Mark, which were manufactured or imported prior to such commencement, then such manufacturer shall be permitted to sell, display, or offer to sell such declared stock up to 30 June 2025.

The date of implementation of the QCO for large and medium enterprises is 1 January 2025, whereas for small and micro enterprises, it is 1 April 2025.

BIS - All India/ Global First Licence

BIS issued the All India/ Global First Licence, that is, the first licence ever issued for a certain product/Indian Standard for the following products in January 2025:

Sr. No.	Product	Indian Standard	Company
1.	Atrazine, Technical	IS 12932 : 2024	M/s Meghmani Industries Limited
2.	Wrought Aluminium and Its Alloys - Chequered/tread Sheets for General Engineering Purposes	IS 14712 : 1999	M/s Inalco Metal Private Limited
3.	Steel for Cold Heading/Cold Extrusion Application-Part 2 Stainless Steel	IS 11169 (Part 2) : 2023	M/s Nippon Seisen Co.Ltd
4.	Toluene Diisocyanate (TDI-80)	IS 17916 : 2022	M/s Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited
5.	Ferromolybdenum	IS 1469 : 1993	M/s Essel Mining and Industries Ltd
6.	Wear and Abrasion Resistant Steel Sheet and Plate	IS 18809 : 2024	M/s Arcelormittal Nippon Steel India Limited
7.	Ferrovanadium	IS 1466 : 1985	M/s Essel Mining and Industries Ltd

8.	Heating Oil (L D O)	IS 15770 : 2021	M/s IFP Petro Products Pvt. Ltd.
9.	Wrought Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Wire for General Engineering Purposes	IS 739 : 1992	M/s Murti Udyog Limited
10.	Cyphenothrin, EC	IS 15979 : 2012	M/s Lotus Biotech

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