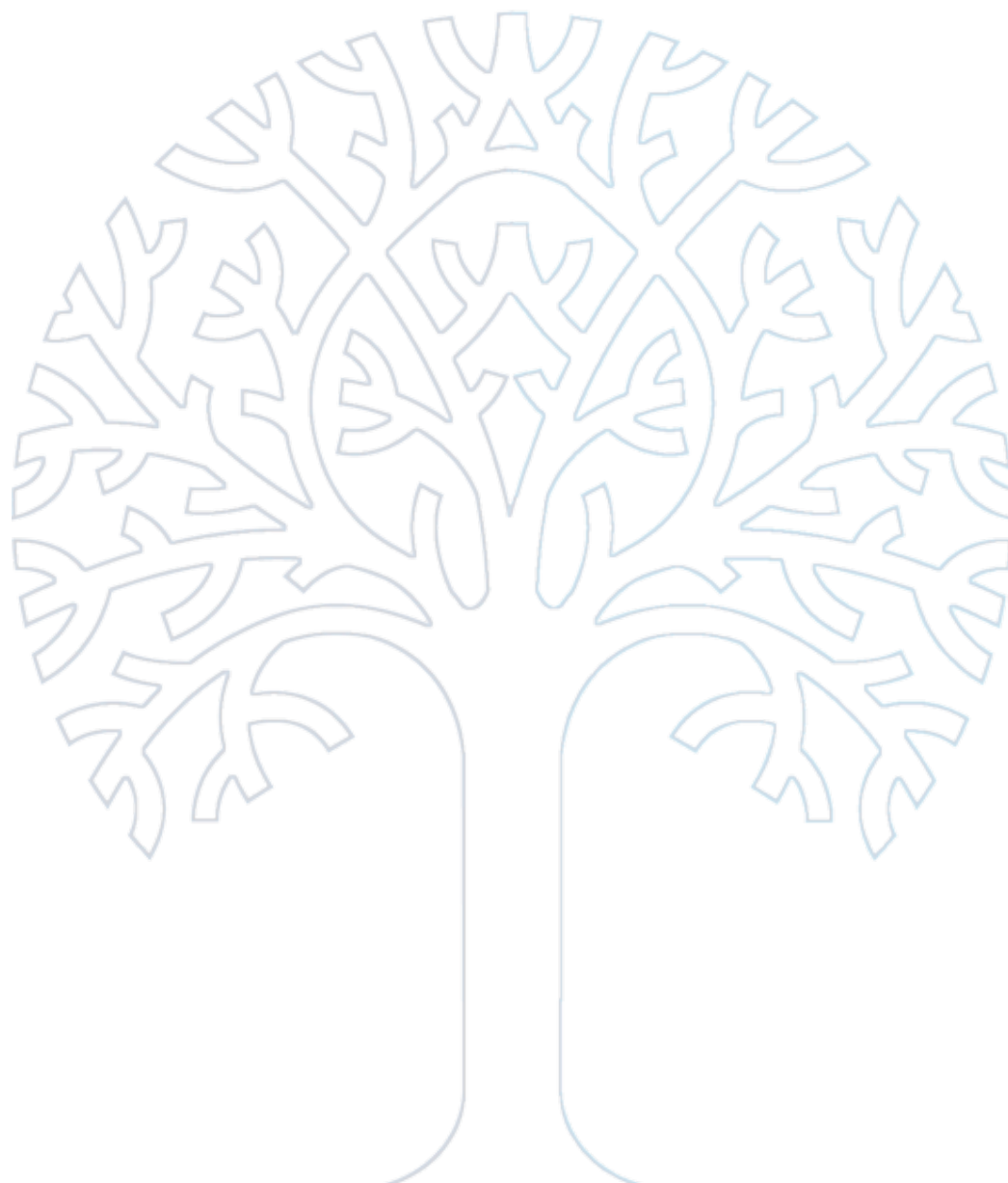




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A monthly e-newsletter on developments related
to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

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India

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News Nuggets

Uttar Pradesh is set to enforce BIS certification requirement for helmets

The transport commissioner of Uttar Pradesh has ordered for strict enforcement of the use of BIS certified helmets. The Commissioner has also directed officials to take strict actions against non-compliance, including FIRs against sellers and manufacturers violating the BIS standards.

[Source: The Hindustan Times, as available [here](#).]

Technical session on BIS standards for bicycle and skateboard helmets

The Chennai branch of BIS recently organised a programme on standards related to protective helmets for bicycles, skateboards and roller skates, at an engineering college. Around 150 stakeholders were present.

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

BIS makes registration mandatory for CCTV cameras

The government has implemented mandatory Standardization Testing and Quality Certification for CCTV cameras, in order to tackle the issue of import of sub-standard CCTV cameras. Manufacturers that fail to meet compliance requirements will face regulatory consequences such as suspension or cancellation of their BIS license.

[Source: The Hindu Business Line, as available [here](#)]

MSMEs urge government to revise BIS certification norms

Several industry associations such as 'All India Stainless Steel Industries Association', 'Federation of Associations of Maharashtra' and 'Wazirpur Bartan Nirmata Sangh' have written to the Ministry of Commerce in order to revisit the imposition of BIS certification for stainless steel utensils. The associates state that the mandatory certification will disproportionately impact MSMEs due to the lack of specialised machinery available with them, leading to widespread business closure and huge job losses. Therefore, they request extension of QCO implementation timeline for MSMEs.

[Source: Business World, as available [here](#)]

BIS raids warehouse and seizes goods in Bengaluru

The Bengaluru branch of BIS conducted a search at an e-commerce platform's warehouse, and goods worth INR 2.5 crore were found to be non-complaint with BIS. These products were unlicensed, wrongly marked with the ISI mark, and violated the terms of the BIS license.

[Source: The New Indian Express, as available [here](#)]

BIS raids 'hand-held blender' unit in Hyderabad, seize products without certification

The Hyderabad unit of BIS conducted a search and seizure operation at a factory outlet, and seized 2635 hand-held blenders worth INR 77 lakh, which were found to be non-BIS complaint.

[Source: Deccan Chronicle, as available [here](#)]

BIS holds Jewellers Awareness Programme on Akshay Tritiya

BIS Jamshedpur conducted a jewellers awareness programme on Akshay Tritiya , where the key Indian Standards covering jewellery were explained, and the mandatory hallmarking scheme was discussed.

[Source: The Pioneer, as available [here](#)]

BIS seizes 30,000 non-BIS certified sanitary napkins in Hyderabad

The BIS officials of Hyderabad searched a factory, wherein officials seized approximately 30,000 non-BIS compliant sanitary napkins. The raid also led to the seizure of 7000 napkin label covers. Compliance with these standards is necessary to ensure the health and safety of women.

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

Textile Industry seeks relief from BIS norms

The representatives of the textile industries of India have approached the Central Government to seek relief from the rigid implementation of BIS norms, due to its adverse effects on production, employment and global competitiveness. This has especially been impacting MSMEs, and have requested for extension in date of implementation of the QCO.

[Source: The English Loktej, as available [here](#)]

Government tightens refrigerant norms, BIS revises standards

BIS is revising its norms with regard to refrigerants by aligning the Indian regulations with international standards to phase out the use of global warming-potential cooling gases. With the implementation of the new standards, the aim is for all appliances using refrigerants to be free of hydrochlorofluorocarbon by 2030.

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

Associations have challenged the Copper QCO in court

The Bombay Metal Exchange and the Bombay Non-ferrous Metals Association have filed a petition against the QCO on Copper Cathodes, due to significant disruptions to supply and adverse effect on downstream industries. Copper imports have fallen drastically in December and January, and have created acute shortage.

[Source: KNN Knowledge and News Network, as available [here](#)]

Government has initiated steps to include steel pipes, tubes and fittings under QCO

The proposed QCO would cover iron and steel pipes and tubes, including pipes for water and sewage, spiral welded pipes, cast iron fittings, and steel tubes for applications in the petroleum and natural gas industries.

[Source: Steel Orbis, as available [here](#)]



Article

Hallmarking Scheme of BIS: Safeguarding the purity of precious metals

By Anjali Hirawat, Riya Sinha

Introduction

Gold and silver have been an integral part of Indian culture, purchased on auspicious occasions and passed down through generations. However, since gold in its pure form is soft and cannot withstand wear, it is alloyed with other metals to make jewellery. This requirement for alloying gold also leaves potential for excessive adulteration. Therefore, it is necessary to have safeguards to ensure that the gold is of high quality.

The Bureau of Indian Standards ('**BIS**') is the national standards body of India, established under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 ('**BIS Act**'). It plays a pivotal role in ensuring the quality, safety, and reliability of goods, articles, processes, and systems in India.

The article in this issue of BIS Amicus delves into the legal framework, and procedural aspects relating to the hallmarking scheme of BIS applicable to gold and silver jewellery.

Legal framework governing the Hallmarking scheme

BIS Act, 2016

The BIS Act, 2016, and the rules made thereunder provide the statutory basis for the Hallmarking Scheme.

Section 14(1) of the BIS Act is the provision enabling the notification of precious metals that are to be marked with a Hallmark. These notified goods can be sold through retail outlets that are certified by the Bureau, after the goods have been assessed for conformity by testing and marking centres recognised by BIS.

In order to ensure compliance with required quality standards, Section 14(6) of the BIS Act stipulates that apart from the testing and marking centres recognised by BIS, no other testing/ hallmarking centre is allowed to use, affix, emboss, engrave or print the Hallmark or its imitation on any goods or articles.

Section 15 of the BIS Act prohibits the import, distribution, sale, storage or exhibition for sale, of any goods that are notified under Section 14(1), without the necessary Standard Mark or Hallmark.

In consultation with BIS, the Central Government has the power to notify any goods or articles and the specifications that such goods should meet, as per Section 16 of the BIS Act.

BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018

The Bureau of Indian Standards (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018, issued under Section 39 of the BIS Act read with Sections 13 and 14 of the BIS Act, provides a comprehensive framework for ensuring the purity of precious metals.

The process of obtaining the certification of registration for jewellers is discussed as under:

1. **Grant:** As per Regulation 3 and 4 of the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, jewellers must apply and submit documents, including proof of establishment, identity, and turnover. After compliance review, BIS grants the certificate.
2. **Operation:** Jewellers are responsible for ensuring the purity of hallmarked articles and maintaining compliance with BIS standards.
3. **Cancellation:** As per Regulation 7 of the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, violation or non-compliance with BIS provisions can lead to cancellation of license. These violations include – false or incorrect declarations; violation of terms of certification of registration, engaging in practices that misuse hallmark, etc.

The obligations and responsibilities of registered jewellers as mentioned under Regulation 5 of the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations is tabulated herewith:

Provision of the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations	Description
Regulation 5(5)	The jeweller must inform BIS of any change in premises or management.
Regulation 5(7)	Precious metal articles must be hallmarked according to Indian Standards by recognized assaying and hallmarking centres.
Regulation 5(9), (10)	Jewellers must declare authorized representatives for hallmarking requests and pay fees as per Schedule.
Regulation 5(11)	The bill or sales invoice must detail the description of the article, its weight, purity, and hallmarking charges separately.
Regulation 5(13)	The jeweller is required to maintain records related to hallmarking requests, invoices, and bills for at least five years or until the articles are sold, whichever is longer.
Regulation 5(14)	Jewellers are required to cooperate with BIS Audits and inspections, including providing records and samples.
Regulation 5(15)	The original certificate of registration is required to be prominently displayed at sales outlets.

The process of recognition of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres is as follows:

1. **Grant:** As per Regulation 8 and 9 of the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, Assaying and Hallmarking Centres that want BIS registration, need to apply for a license, providing details regarding their infrastructure, quality manuals, etc. BIS provides recognition after compliance verification.

2. **Operation:** Assaying and Hallmarking Centres are required to follow Indian Standards for testing and hallmarking, and submit operational reports. They are required to follow the terms and conditions as laid down by Regulation 10 of the BIS (Hallmark) Regulations.
3. **Renewal:** As stipulated in Regulation 11 of the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, centres must renew their recognition every three years.
4. **Suspension:** Regulation 12 provides that temporary issues such as failure of equipment or deviations from standards may lead to suspension, with corrective measures proposed to resume operations.
5. **Cancellation:** Fraudulent activities or persistent non-compliance may result in revocation of the recognition, as laid down in Regulation 13 of the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations.

Gold jewellery QCO

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 14(3) read with Section 15(2), (3), Section 16, Section 17 and Section 25 of the BIS Act, has issued the 'Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts Order 2020', on 15 January 2020.

The Order states that gold jewellery and gold artefacts must be in compliance with IS 1417:2016, and such compliant goods must bear the BIS Hallmark.

The BIS Hallmark consists of the following:

1. **BIS Standard Mark** – This is the mark that indicates that an assessor has done the hallmarking after thorough evaluation and has confirmed the purity of the metal. The mark is as follows:



2. **Purity Grade** – This indicates the purity of the metal, and corresponds to the carat value of the gold.

3. **Hallmarking Centre's Mark** – This is the mark of the hallmarking centre or the third party assayer that has been approved by BIS. This ensures that in case of any discrepancy later, the gold can be traced back to the centre.
4. **Year of Marking** – This indicates the year in which the gold was hallmarked.
5. **Jewellers Mark** – This is the mark of the jeweller or manufacturer of the item. Each BIS certified jeweller has a unique logo that is embossed on their jewellery.

Conclusion

Apart from the above-mentioned statutory initiatives, the government has also introduced a technological initiative to identify purity of metals such as gold. BIS has introduced the 'BIS Care App', which allows consumers to verify the authenticity of HUID on Hallmarked gold jewellery by using the 'Verify HUID' icon on the App. HUID is the unique Hallmarking ID that is a unique 6-digit alphanumeric code marked on each BIS certified gold jewellery article.

BIS has been successful in implementing the Mandatory Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts in 343 districts of India as on date. Since the implementation of mandatory hallmarking, the number of registered jewellers have increased from 43,153 to 1,93,567 while assaying and hallmarking centres have grown from 948 to 1,611. More than 40 crore articles of gold jewellery have been hallmarked with HUID.

These initiatives and the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations ensure the integrity of precious metal articles by mandating strict procedures for grant of certifications and licenses. These regulations help in protecting consumers and enhancing market transparency, along with increasing trust and creating credibility for India's growing market of precious metals.

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QCO Updates

QCO Updates –April 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 May 2025 to July 2025, a total of 29 products will be covered under the ambit of QCOs. Here's an overview of the same:

	May	June	July
No. of Products	13	5	11
Ministry/ Department which has issued the QCO	Ministry of Heavy Industries – 8 Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – 1 Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 4	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 5	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 1 Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – 10

Products	Low-Voltage Switchgear and controlgear, H Acid, Vinyl Sulphone, Poly Vinyl Chloride Homopolymers, etc.	Household and similar electrical appliances, Polypropylene Materials for Moulding and Extrusion, etc.	Cabinet Hinges, Parliament Hinges, Flashlight, Poly-Laminated aluminium cable wrap, etc.
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Industries likely to be impacted:

- Electrical Appliances;
- Tool manufacturing;
- 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 in April 2025

Sr. No.	Order Title
1.	Refined Nickel (Quality Control) Order, 2025
2.	Primary Lead (Quality Control) Order, 2025
3.	Refined Zinc (Quality Control) Order, 2025
4.	Tin Ingot (Quality Control) Order, 2025

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

No draft QCOs were notified by India on the ePing portal in March 2025.

Extensions to the existing QCOs

Sr. No.	Order Title	Date of Implementation
1.	Vinyl Acetate Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2021	31 March 2026
2.	Lauric Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2022	24 October 2025
3.	Acid Oil (Quality Control) Order, 2022	24 October 2025
4.	Palm Fatty Acids (Quality Control) Order, 2022	24 October 2025
5.	Rice Bran Fatty Acids (Quality Control) Order, 2022	24 October 2025
6.	Coconut Fatty Acids (Quality Control) Order, 2022	24 October 2025
7.	Hydrogenated Rice Bran Fatty Acids (Quality Control) Order, 2022	24 October 2025

LKS Comments

The date of implementation of multiple QCOs notified by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have been extended.

Amendment/Supersession Orders

Sr. No.	Order Title
1.	Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025

LKS Comments - What's in the Amendment?

The Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025, has been issued by DPIIT, amending the Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Order, 2019.

The date of implementation of the new Air Conditioner QCO is 17 April 2025.

The Amendment Order has added the following proviso to paragraph 2 of the QCO:

'Provided also that nothing in this order shall apply to Hermetic Compressors of upto 2 TR (7000 W) capacity for one year from the date of commencement of the Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025 to the manufacturers of Air conditioning and Refrigeration equipment and related parts on Actual user basis.'

Therefore, the Air Conditioner QCO will not apply to Hermetic Compressors of upto 2 TR capacity, used for manufacturing air conditioning and refrigeration equipment for one year, i.e., till 17 April 2026.

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 April 2025:

Sr. No.	Product	Indian Standard	Company
1.	High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks for Packing of Solid Ammonium Nitrate for Explosives	IS 16581 : 2018	M/s Maruti Packaging
2.	Textiles - Continuous Multifilament Polypropylene Yarns	IS 18892 : 2024	M/s Indospun LLP
3.	Zinc Base Alloy Ingots for Die Casting	IS 713 : 1981	M/s Phoenix Industries Limited

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