

BIS (BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS)

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INTRODUCTION

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which came into effect on 23 December 1986. The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.
- As a corporate body, it has 25 members drawn from Central or State Governments, industry, scientific and research institutions, and consumer organisations. Its headquarters are in New Delhi, with regional offices in Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Delhi and 20 branch offices. It also works as WTO-TBT enquiry point for India

ASSOCIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS BODIES

- BIS is a founder member of International Organisation for Standardization (ISO)
- It represents India in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the World Standards Service Network (WSSN).
- One of the major functions of the Bureau is the formulation, recognition and promotion of the Indian Standards. As on 31 August 2016, 26552 Standards formulated by BIS, are in force. These cover important segments of economy, which help the industry in upgrading the quality of their products and services.

LABORATORIES

- To support the activities of product certification, BIS has a chain of 8 laboratories. These laboratories have established testing facilities for products of chemical, food, electrical and mechanical disciplines. Approximately, 25000 samples are being tested in the BIS laboratories every year. In certain cases where it is economically not feasible to develop test facilities in BIS laboratories and also for other reasons like overloading of samples, equipment being out of order, the services of outside approved laboratories are also being availed. Except for the two labs, all the other labs are NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) accredited. It operates a laboratory recognition scheme also.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME

- Product Certifications are to be obtained voluntarily. For, some of the products like Milk powder, Drinking Water, LPG Cylinders, etc., certification is mandatory. Because these products are concerned with health and safety.

FOR FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS

- All foreign manufacturers of products who intend to export to India are required to obtain a BIS product certification license. Towards this, BIS launched its Product Certification Scheme for overseas manufacturers in the year 1999. Under the provisions of this scheme, foreign manufacturers can seek certification from BIS for marking their product(s) with BIS Standard Mark. If or otherwise, the foreign manufacturer has not signed an MoU with BIS, it has to set up a liaison office in India with the permission of Reserve Bank of India. Otherwise, an authorised representative or agent needs to be appointed by the foreign firm.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

- Management System Certification Scheme IS/ISO 9001.
- Environmental Management System Certification Scheme IS/ISO 14001.
- Occupational Health and Safety Management System Certification Scheme IS 18001.
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Scheme IS/ISO 22000.
- Service Quality Management System Certification Scheme IS 15700.

OBJECTIVES

- The main objectives of the proposed legislation are:-
- To establish the Bureau of Indian standards(BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.
- The Bureau to perform its functions through a governing council, which will consist of President and other members.
- To include goods, services and systems, besides articles and processes under the standardization regime.
- To enable the government to bring under the mandatory certification regime for such articles, processes or service which it considers necessary from the point of view of health, safety, environment, prevention of deceptive practices, consumer security etc. This will help consumers receive ISI certified products and will also help in prevention of import of sub-standard products.
- To allow multiple types of simplified conformity assessment schemes including self-declaration of conformity (SDOC) against any standard which will give multiple simplified options to manufacturers to adhere to standards and get a certificate of conformity, thus improving the 'ease of doing business'.
- To enable the Central Government to appoint any authority in addition to the Bureau of Indian Standards, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity.