

Quality Control Order (QCO) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) requirements

Impact and capabilities overview

January 2026



Overview



Legislative and regulatory framework

Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016

Authorises the government to specify goods that must compulsorily carry standard marks.

Quality control orders/Safety orders

Orders introducing mandatory licensing requirements are framed by the concerned ministry or departments.

BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018

Mandates manufacturers to comply with conformity assessment regulations, which govern the licensing process for certifying goods as compliant with prescribed standards.



Procedural framework - Key BIS certification schemes

Scheme I

- Most widespread scheme in terms of coverage
- Licensing requires factory audit
- Timelines 6 to 9 months (2 to 3 months for domestic factories)

Scheme II

- Primarily applicable on electronic goods
- No factory audit required
- Timelines 2 to 4 months

Scheme X

- Relatively new scheme
- Factory audit required
- Batch wise license available
- Timelines 6 to 9 months

Key data points

20,000+

Indian standards

2,400+

Overseas licenses issued

150+

QCOs/SOs issued

750+

Products covered

2,500+

Products
may be
covered soon

The what and why of BIS

01

Quality and safety standards

Assures product quality and/or safety from hazards

02

Non-tariff barrier

Restriction on imports for non-certified goods

03

Consumer protection

Ensures consumer safety, and consequent consumer preference

04

Industry protection

Fosters healthy competition by curbs on imports and local manufacture of sub-standard goods

Applies to all goods, indigenous and/or imported

Multi-faceted impact

Business

Stoppage of business –
No imports, local sourcing,
purchase, sales or
manufacturing

Reputational

Brand reputation
impact on account of
non-compliance and
sale or purchase of
unmarked goods

Financial

Penalties or fines under
BIS Act, 2016 and
Customs Act 1962



Key sectors and products covered



Automobile

- Wheel rims
- Bearings and bearing components
- Automotive valves
- Gears, etc.



Heavy industry

- Construction machinery
- Earth moving machinery
- Centrifuges, filtering, and purifying machinery
- Cranes
- Generators, etc.



Electrical and electronics

- Computers
- Ovens
- Vacuum cleaners
- Air purifiers
- Toilet appliances, etc.



Consumer

- Footwear
- Water bottles
- Kitchen appliances
- Toys
- Paper, etc.



Steel industry

- Sheets
- Wires
- Plates
- Bars
- Rods, etc.



Industrial components

- Hinges
- Fasteners
- Valves
- Cables
- Safety glasses, etc.

and many more...

Key stakeholders involved



Line Ministry

- Formulates and issues to QCO/SO



Bureau of Indian Standards

- Formulates IS
- Manages the licensing process



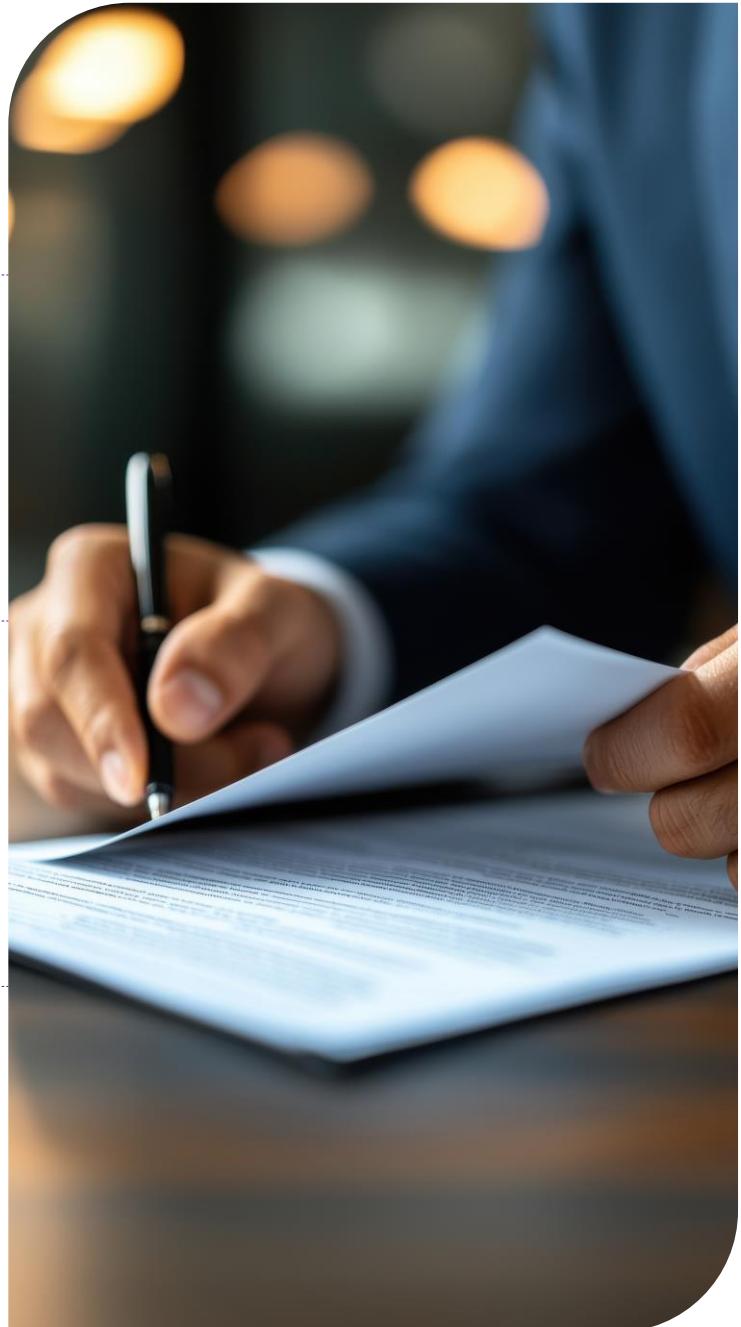
Indian company/brand

- Key stakeholder bearing the impact
- Bridge between the India authorities, consultant and manufacturer



Manufacturer

- Responsible for compliance
- Coordinates with stakeholders for submission of application, on-site visit, and post license compliance



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Handhold
brand/Manufacturer with
the BIS requirements

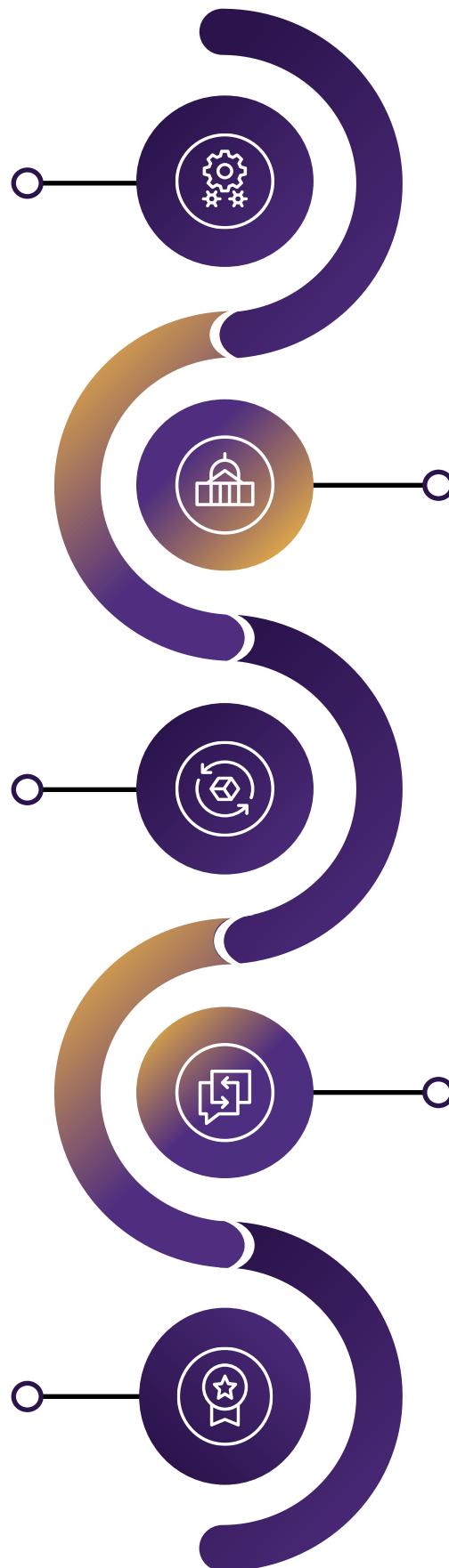
Coordinates with
BIS/Ministry

Ensures timely
compliance

Lifecycle – BIS/QCO processes

Indian standard

- Identification of applicable IS
- Amendment of IS for inclusion or exclusion of product, update in testing parameters, etc. (if required)
- Framing of IS for inclusion of product for standardisation of quality parameters (if required)



QCO/SO

- Identification of applicable order
- Framing of QCO/SO (if required) for curbing imports of low-cost low-quality products and mandatory standardisation of requirements

Licensing process

- Preparation and filing of application
- Desk review by BIS
- Factory audit by scientist
- Testing by accredited lab
- Issuance of license

Post licensing process

- License mapping at Manak portal
- Regular reporting of consignments and generation of customs clearance code
- Set up of scheme of Inspection and Testing – Regular testing as per SIT
- Renewal of license (4 months prior to expiry)

Advocacy

- Engagement with BIS/ministry/customs on open issues
- Management of post license surveillance with customs
- Resolution and support with any other area

Our end-to-end offerings

At Grant Thornton Bharat, we offer expert guidance across the licensing lifecycle, and post licensing activities



Expert guidance throughout the licensing lifecycle



Framing or amendment of IS/QCO -
For standardisation of quality parameters, if required



Mapping of product details with relevant IS/QCO



Preparation and filing of application, factory audit support, test lab, and BIS coordination



Post licensing support including license mapping, consignment reporting, scheme of inspection, and testing set up and license renewals.



Engagement with Line Ministry/BIS for specific issues and consequent resolutions



Why Grant Thornton Bharat?



Extensive expertise in assisting clients with BIS/QCO matters



Diverse team with varied a skill set



Preferred partner for leading industry players



Customised service offerings designed for unique business needs



Strong connections and affiliations with industry experts

Expert guidance across industries

Grant Thornton Bharat delivers significant value by collaborating across services to create innovative and tailored solutions that address clients' complex challenges. Our industry experts specialise in **product evaluation, end to end licensing support, and compliance** with BIS/QCO requirements.

For more information, contact our experts:



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