



# Bureau of Indian Standards

An overview

**November 2025**



# Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS): A brief overview

## Understanding the operation domains of BIS

- BIS – National standards body of India
- Formulates Indian standards (IS) for standardisation and certification of goods
- Based on the IS formulated by BIS, respective line ministries issue Quality Control Orders (QCO) for product certification.
- Once a QCO is issued, the products are required to have BIS certification for import, manufacture or further sale in India.
- Non-compliance could lead to supply chain obstructions and substantial monetary fines, sales bans, etc.



India's national standards body



Responsible for quality certification



Serves as the contact point for technical barriers to trade committee in the World Trade Organization (WTO).



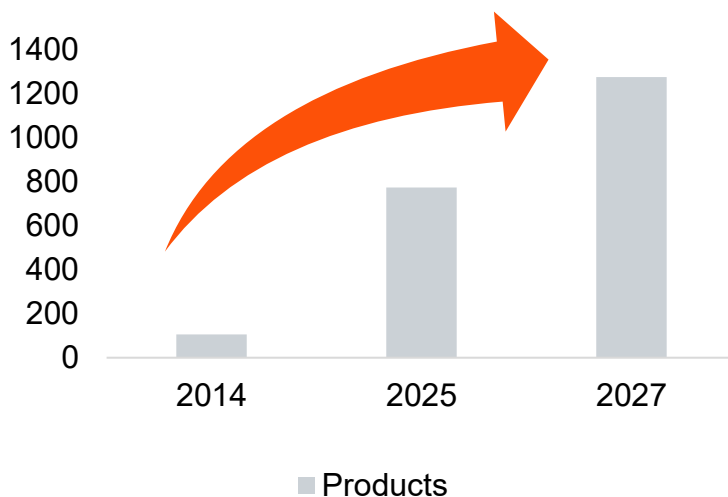
Accredits labs which can test as per IS.



Can undertake enforcement searches and seizure raids.

## BIS – Current and future

- As of October 2025, **191 QCOs** covering approx. **773 products** are operative as against 14 QCOs covering 106 products in 2014.<sup>1</sup>
- Recently **many draft QCOs have been extended/deferred** by the Indian Government.<sup>2</sup>
- However, these QCOs are expected to be reissued/reconsidered post detailed stakeholder consultations with the industry.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2178951>

<sup>2</sup> **Some sources** – PIB report dated 20 November 2025; PIB report dated 18 November 2025

# Relevance of BIS for business operations

## Impact of BIS

01 Supply chain continuity


02 Consumer protection

03 Enhanced reputation

04 Competitive edge

## Why BIS?

 Market access

 Risk mitigation

 Business growth

 Consumer trust

## Operationalising compliance: Why BIS is the first step?



### Mandatory for market entry

Many consumer and industrial products require BIS certification to be sold in India and non-compliance to the standards can lead to supply chain impact.



### Regulatory shield

BIS ensures that the products meet Indian safety, quality and performance standards



### Symbol of trust

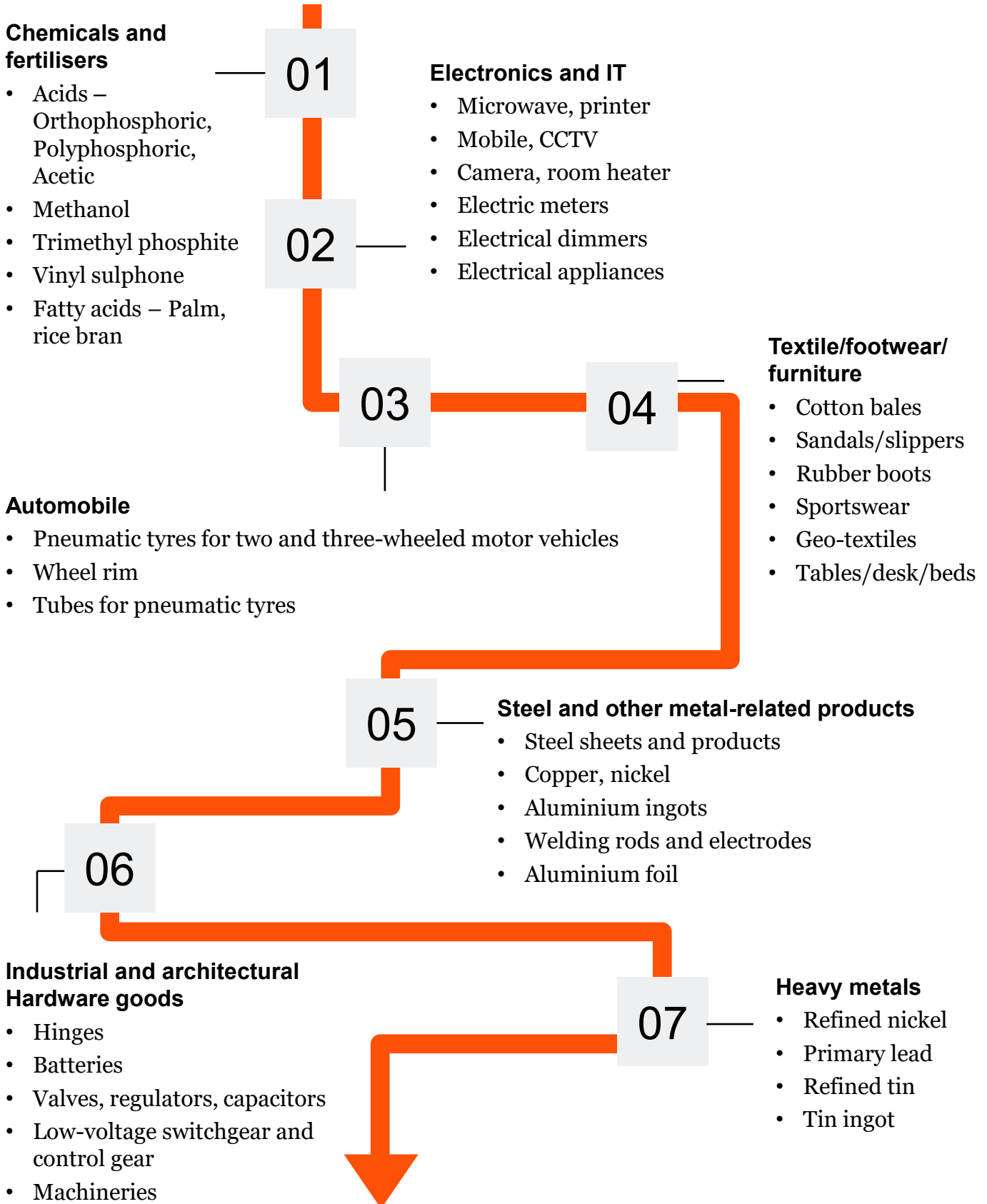
The ISI mark is a recognised symbol of quality for Indian consumers, retailers and government buyers. It provides preferential treatment by Indian consumers.



### Strategic differentiator

BIS-certified products face better market reception by Indian customers, prioritised shelf placement in some cases as well as preference in public procurements.

# Sector-specific standards: An illustrative coverage of products (active and anticipated)



# Overview of BIS schemes

## Certification scheme

- The BIS certification scheme covers a wide range of products including footwear, toys, household appliances, electronics and industrial goods.
- The central government mandates the use of the Standard Mark (ISI Mark) for certain products in public interest.
- Manufacturers are required to obtain a BIS license or Certificate of Conformity before selling or marketing such products in India.
- Compliance is verified through factory audits and product testing conducted in BIS or BIS-recognised laboratories.
- The certification process for foreign manufacturers is specifically provided in the Foreign Manufacturer Certification Scheme (FMCS).



## Registration schemes

- The BIS Registration Scheme applies to specific categories of Information Technology (IT) and electronic products identified by the Government of India.
- Under this scheme, manufacturers are required to obtain registration from the BIS before selling or importing such products in India.
- To verify compliance, samples of the products are tested in laboratories authorised by the BIS.
- Only products that successfully meet the prescribed standards through such testing are granted BIS registration. Once registered, the manufacturer is permitted to use the Standard Mark with a unique registration number on the product to indicate conformity.

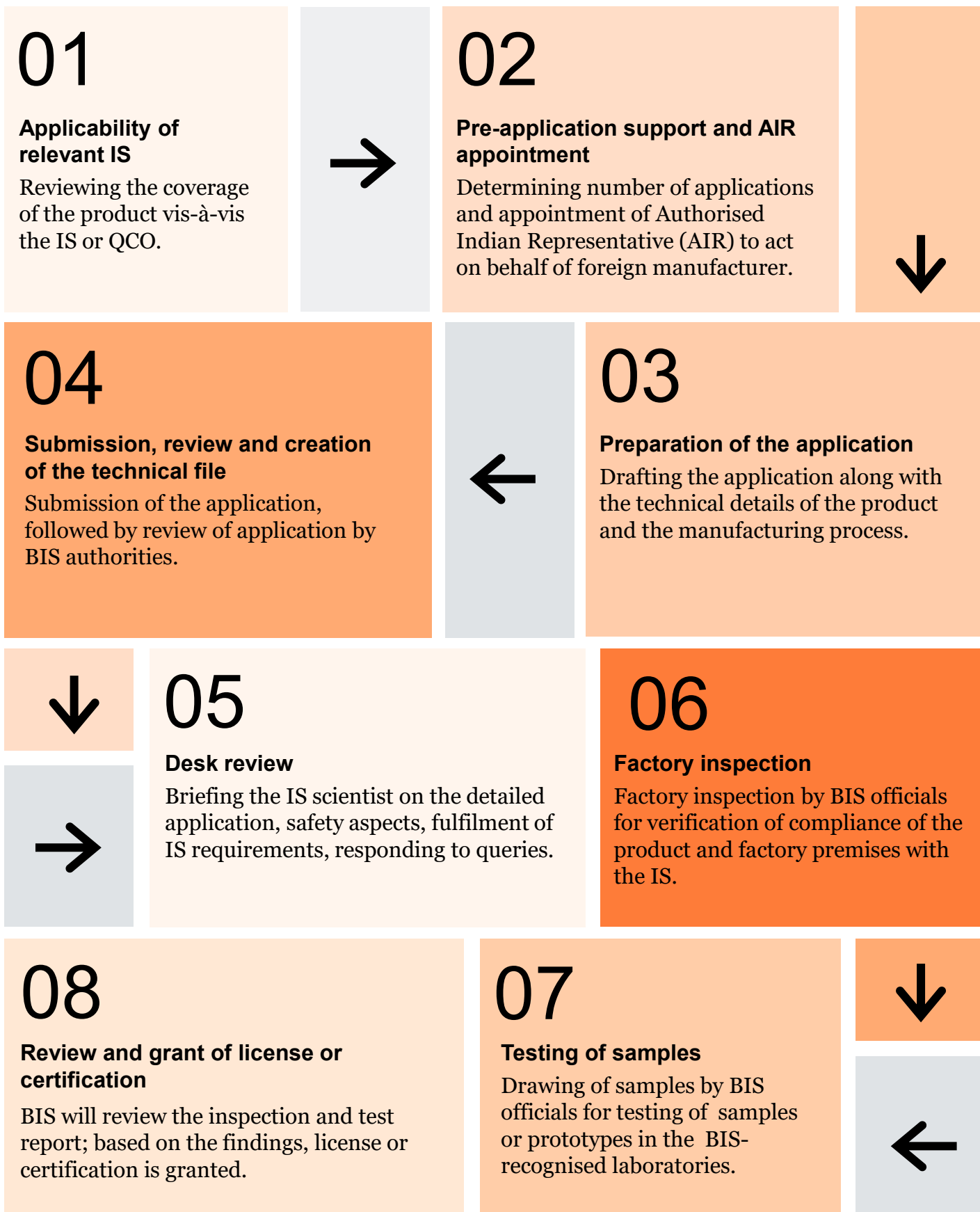


## Other schemes

- Scheme X applies as a subset of certification scheme for specific products. It covers a wide range of machinery, electrical equipment and components.
- Omnibus Technical Regulation falls under Scheme X and has a pre-registration process as well
- Other schemes include Management System Certification (for management systems of an organisation), Hallmarking Scheme (for purity of precious metals like gold and silver), etc.



# Roadmap for obtaining BIS license



# Common queries on BIS

## Is BIS certification mandatory for imported goods?



Yes, all imported products which are covered under QCOs must comply with the BIS requirements. Customs clearance is denied if products lack a valid BIS certification or registration.

## Who can apply for a BIS license?



Only manufacturers producing goods can apply. Traders, importers or distributors cannot obtain a license. Foreign manufacturers can obtain an ISI mark through the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS).

## Can a foreign manufacturer apply directly, or must it have an Indian presence?



Foreign manufacturers can apply, but they must appoint an AIR to act on their behalf in India. The AIR must submit an affidavit or undertaking in the prescribed format.

## How many applications can a manufacturer submit?



Generally, an applicant must file separate applications for each product and factory location. Also, if the applicant manufactures under multiple brands, registration is required under each brand.

However, under OTR, it has been clarified that one application per factory can be submitted, irrespective of the number of products.

# Common queries on BIS

## How long does it take to obtain a BIS license?



The time required to obtain BIS approval depends on the applicable scheme, product type and inspection readiness. For domestic manufacturers, it usually takes about 2–3 months under Scheme I (ISI Mark) and 1–2 months under Scheme II (Compulsory Registration Scheme). For foreign manufacturers, it takes around 6–7 months under Scheme I (FMCS) and 3–4 months under Scheme II (CRS), due to overseas inspections and additional coordination.

## What is the validity period of the BIS license?



The validity of BIS certification depends on the applicable scheme and generally ranges between 2–6 years. The validity period may be renewed periodically upon continued compliance.

## Can the BIS registration be transferred to another manufacturer?



No, the BIS registration is non-transferable and is tied to the specific manufacturing location.

## If a product type is usually covered by a QCO, but my specific model is slightly different (due to technical specifications, etc.), do I still need a BIS license?



BIS license may not be needed, in such a case, you can apply for an NOC to show the QCO doesn't apply and to allow customs clearance. The NOC is applied to the line Ministry and is usually considered when Port Customs has raised the query.

# About PwC

At PwC, we help clients build trust and reinvent so they can turn complexity into competitive advantage. We're a tech-forward, people-empowered network with more than 364,000 people in 136 countries and 137 territories. Across audit and assurance, tax and legal, deals and consulting, we help clients build, accelerate, and sustain momentum. Find out more at [www.pwc.com](http://www.pwc.com).

PwC refers to the PwC network and/or one or more of its member firms, each of which is a separate legal entity. Please see [www.pwc.com/structure](http://www.pwc.com/structure) for further details.

© 2025 PwC. All rights reserved.

Data Classification: DC2 (Confidential)

All images in this presentation are protected by copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret and other intellectual property laws and treaties. Any unauthorised use of these images may violate such laws and shall be punishable under appropriate laws. Our sharing of this presentation along with such protected images with you does not authorise you to copy, republish, frame, link to, download, transmit, modify, adapt, create derivative works based on, rent, lease, loan, sell, assign, distribute, display, perform, license, sub-license or reverse engineer the images. In addition, you should desist from employing any data mining, robots or similar data and/or image gathering and extraction methods in connection with the presentation.

In this document, PwC refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited (a limited liability company in India having Corporate Identity Number or CIN : U74140WB1983PTCO36093), which is a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited (PwCIL), each member firm of which is a separate legal entity.

© 2025 PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited. All rights reserved.

PR/November 2025/M&C 49543