

NATIONAL LAB DIRECTORY – A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH FOR INDUSTRY IN THE FIELD OF TESTING & MEASUREMENT

The launch of National Lab Directory and enhancement of related ICT projects of BIS by **Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** on 30.08.2019 is a pathbreaking initiative.

The Directory, which has been developed completely in-house, is an online portal and presently encompasses NABL accredited, BIS Recognised/Empanelled Labs and Hallmarking Labs. All stakeholders including Industry, Labs, Government/Regulators, Researchers/Academia and Consumers. The labs which are recognised/notified by FSSAI, APEDA, EIC, CDSCO, CPCB can also be integrated accordingly in a plug-n-play manner as the Portal provides a readymade platform for API integration. The labs can also register on the Portal directly even if these are not recognised/accredited/notified. All testing facilities for various labs can be searched by Products, IS standards, Name, Type etc. **Besides intelligent search cutting across various databases interlinked through APIs**, there is an interactive **Geographical Information System** and Drill Down Dashboard to go down to sub-categories of products or locations.

- ✓ The **Geographical Information System** includes search of labs carrying out different tests (as per standards) and factories manufacturing various certified/registered products.
- ✓ All details are given in filtered and advance searchable form. So, if an individual wants to know about certified manufacturers of a particular product near his/her location, one can get the answer readily from the database in which query result is displayed on the map also using Geoinformatics Tools.
- ✓ Similarly, a Laboratory carrying out specific tests or tests for a particular standard/product can also be found on the map.
- ✓ Data of Hallmarked Jewelers and Assaying Centres has also been given on GIS. Details of over 4000 laboratories are existing in this directory. Just like NABL, all related agencies can immediately hook-

up to this Portal so that real-time status of laboratories (including scope of recognition/notification/accreditation) is available universally.

- ✓ In the near future, pricing of tests, additional facilities (if any) and capacity for various tests are also going to be integrated, so that an informed decision can be taken by the customer of these labs.
- ✓ Another major achievement is digitization of test reports at the lab level which has been completed for some ICT products under Compulsory Registration Scheme of BIS (**CRSBIS**).
- ✓ There has also been a substantive change in the overall workflow of CRSBIS to bring in transparency, objectivity, efficiency and speed in the entire process. Once all 49 products are covered, this system will be formally commissioned.
- ✓ This revamped computerized system of testing eliminates the need of manually printed reports. Instead, based on **self-declaration and measurement results in the lab, a computer-generated Test Reports** based on parameters (or metrics of the same) will determine success or failure of a product submitted for registration.
- ✓ Gradually, this whole system will be extended for other licensing process as well.
- ✓ This system will also enable sharing of test reports across agencies for regulation purposes.
- ✓ Failure analysis based on parameters will help industry in taking corrective action.
- ✓ A mobile app named '**BIS Certified Products**' was also launched. This allows consumers to check genuineness of a License Number or a Registration number by searching for that type of product/firm or License/Registration number. **One can find licensed/registered manufacturers of any kind of product.**

Shri Paswan lauded BIS for creation of this directory and emphasized the need for stopping the import of sub-standard goods in the country and underlined the need of implementation of standards to check quality goods

in the country for both domestic & imported goods. He stressed upon not only making exhaustive standards but also implementing the same effectively. Secretary Consumer Affairs Shri Avinash K. Srivastava expressed the need of making standards accessible to common public through digital platforms.

Secretary, Commerce Anup Wadhawan expressed the need for making standards implementable since this was the only way forward for making quality manufacturing and supplementing the industrial growth.

Sh. Pawan Agarwal, CEO FSSAI, also extended his full support towards this initiative taken by BIS by providing all support from FSSAI so that quality testing can lead to safer goods for the consumers.

Shri Sanjeev Gupta, Special Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs, who guided the entire initiative in BIS in his personal capacity, gave a detailed live demonstration and presentation to explain features & future roadmap of the Portal.

DG BIS expressed her views on utilization of existing testing facilities available in Government Sector Laboratories in the country and informed about various technological advances being implemented by BIS in collaboration with leading academic and research institutions like IIT Bombay for reducing human intervention in the conformity assessment procedures. She congratulated Shri Sanjeev Gupta, Special Secretary MHA and BIS team in finishing the work in a short duration.

Representatives of Testing Laboratories, Industry, and Government Regulators attended the function and all.

The link for the National Laboratory Directory is www.labdirectory.bis.gov.in