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BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

CENTRAL MARKS DEPARTMENT-III

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

ON CERTIFICATION OF

LOW VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR PRODUCTS

Q1. What is a licence?

A1: Licence means a licence granted under Section 13 of BIS Act 2016 to use a specified Standard Mark in relation to any goods or article which conforms to a standard.

Q2. I am a manufacturer of a product and interested in applying for BIS product certification licenses. How should I apply for it when I am not aware of the corresponding Indian Standard Numbers?

A2: You can search for the Indian Standard against a product at the URL: https://www.services.bis.gov.in/php/BIS_2.0/bisconnect/knownyourstandards/indian_standards/isde tails . If you cannot find the relevant Indian Standard, send a query to concerned technical department of BIS at https://www.services.bis.gov.in/php/BIS_2.0/bisconnect/dgdashboard/committee_sso/ .

Q3. What are the essential requirements to be possessed by a manufacture for applying to BIS for obtaining licence?

A3: For obtaining BIS licence, the manufacturer must have requisite manufacturing infrastructure, appropriate process controls, quality control and testing capabilities for the product as per relevant Indian Standard (ISS). The product shall also conform to all requirements laid down in the ISS.

Q4. Can I submit one application for same product being manufactured at different factory locations?

A4: No, separate application for each factory location is required to be submitted, even if the product and Indian Standard is same.

Q5. For which products, the BIS licence is compulsory? Or I am manufacturing a product. Is it compulsory to get BIS licence for my product?

A5: Products are brought under compulsory certification by the Central Government as per the provision of BIS Act, 2016 or other Acts. Detail of products which are covered under compulsory BIS certification is available at <https://www.bis.gov.in/product-certification/products-under-compulsory-certification/> . If your product is in this list, it is compulsory for you to get a BIS licence for it.

Q6: What is a Quality Control Order?

A6: BIS certification scheme is basically voluntary in nature. However, for a number of products, compliance to Indian Standards is made compulsory by the Central Government under various considerations viz. public interest, protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of environment, prevention of unfair trade practices and national security.

For such products, the Central Government directs mandatory use of Standard Mark under a Licence from BIS through issuance of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 16 read in conjunction with section 17 and subsection (3) of section 25 of the BIS Act, 2016.

After the date of commencement of the QCO, no person shall manufacture, import, distribute, sell, hire, lease, store or exhibit for sale any product(s) covered under the QCO without the Standard Mark (e.g. the ISI Mark).

List of all products under compulsory BIS certification along with the QCOs and their amendments is available on BIS website www.bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment>Product Certification>“Products under Compulsory Certification”.

For more information on QCOs, please refer the [guidance document on QCOs](#) published by BIS on its website www.bis.gov.in.

Q7. What are the products covered under the scope of the Electrical Equipment (Quality Control) Order, 2020?

A7: Eight categories of Low - Voltage switchgear and controlgear product. such as Circuit – Breakers, switches, disconnectors, switch disconnectors, etc. as described in column 2 of the table of the EEQCO and subsequent amendments made from time to time are covered in the Electrical Equipment (Quality Control) Order, 2020.

Q8. How can I access the Indian Standards referred under the QCO?

A8: Indian Standards can be accessed from BIS website www.bis.gov.in under the tab “Standards>Download Indian Standards” which will direct you to the Standards BIS portal: <https://standardsbis.bsbedge.com/>.

You can register on this portal and then login to download Indian Standards for free. International (ISO/IEC etc.) standards adopted by BIS can also be downloaded on payment.

Q9: My company is sourcing these products covered under the QCOs from a foreign manufacturer. Can foreign manufacturers also get BIS certification?

A9: Yes, foreign manufacturers can also get BIS certification. BIS granted licence to foreign manufacturers under the “Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS)”. Details including the application process, forms etc are available BIS website www.bis.gov.in under Conformity Assessment>FMCS.

Q10. How BIS grants the licence?

A10: The Bureau grants the licence based on successful assessment of the manufacturing infrastructure, process controls, quality control and testing capabilities of the manufacturer through a visit to its manufacturing premises. Conformity of the product to the relevant standard(s) is also established through third party laboratory testing or testing in the manufacturing premises or a combination of both.

Q11. What is the procedure for obtaining BIS licence for use of BIS Standard Mark for products notified under Scheme -X?

A11: Scheme-X proposes two procedures:-

- i. Applicant can either get their sample tested in BIS Labs/BIS Approved 3rd party lab and approved BIS for certification.
- ii. Witnessing of complete testing of the products intended for certification including the subcontracted facilities (if any) applied by the applicant.

If the testing time in the BIS or BIS recognised laboratory is more than expected, the manufacturer may opt for submission of in-house test laboratory (including sub-contracted facilities). These tests will also be witnessed during the inspection visit by the BIS officer.

For a long duration test requiring testing time 30 days (one month) and above, the manufacturer will get the BIS certification based on undertaking. Provided the sample should be under test either

- i. at BIS or BIS recognised laboratory, OR
- ii. at in-house laboratory (including sub-contracted facilities) for witnessing completion by the BIS officer.

After completion of such long duration tests, certification already awarded will be reviewed by BIS.

A guidance document on steps to be followed for grant of licence under scheme – X for new applicants has been hosted on BIS website <https://www.manakonline.in/MANAK/ConformityAssessment>.

Q12. Our product conforms to requirement of Indian Standard mentioned in the Order, but it is certified against the International Standard. Will the same test certificate is applicable?

A12: No, you will require to obtain a BIS license under Scheme-X of Schedule-II to the BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations for product conforming to respective Indian Standard mentioned in column 3 of the table of the Order and subsequent amendments made from time to time.

Q13. My company owns several manufacturing units spread across various locations. Do I need to obtain BIS certification for all these units?

A13: Yes, BIS certification is granted to a manufacturing premises and not to a company. Therefore, separate certification (licence) shall need to be obtained for each manufacturing premises (manufacturing premise(s) means the premises, either owned by the applicant or otherwise, where a part of the manufacturing activity takes place and includes the premises where the final manufacturing activity is carried out and where Standard Mark is to be used or applied).

Q14. In my manufacturing unit, I make several different types of low voltage switchgear products. Do I need to take one licence for the unit or separate licences for each of the products? Do I also need to take separate licences for each of the different varieties of the same low voltage switchgear products being produced?

A14: BIS grants separate licences for each product according to the Indian Standards applicable. For example, if both AC Circuit – Breakers (as per IS/IEC 60947-2) and Isolators [(switches, disconnectors, switch disconnectors and fuse – Combination units) as per IS/IEC 60947-3] are being manufactured in the same unit, that unit has to obtain two separate licences for each of these products/Indian Standard.

However, different varieties of the product covered under the same Indian Standard, can be covered under the same licence. Please refer the product manuals (Scope of licence and grouping guidelines) for more information related to specific products. <https://www.bis.gov.in/product-certification/product-specific-information-2/product-manualsmk>.

Q15. I am an importer/ dealer/retailer/wholesaler/distributor of the products covered under the QCO, do I also need to take BIS certification?

A15: No, BIS grants certification only to manufacturing units and not to dealers/importers/retailers/wholesalers/distributors.

However, dealers /importers/retailers/wholesalers/distributors shall ensure that the products covered under QCOs are purchased only from manufacturing unit holding a valid BIS licence.

Q16. Where can I find the list of labs established and recognized by BIS for testing these products?

A16: Please visit www.manakonline.in and click on the tile titled “laboratory” to access the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) portal i.e. lims.bis.gov.in. LIMS is linked to the Manakonline portal. Kindly refer the circular Ref: CMD-I/2:17:1 dated 02 June 2023 with Subject ‘Guidelines for Grant of Licence (GoL) as per the conformity assessment Scheme – X of Schedule – II of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018’ for more details on the Product compliance report (Test reports).

Q17. What is a Technical File?

A17: As per the requirements of Scheme – X of Schedule – II of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018 a Technical file is to be submitted with the application. The Technical File comprise documentation covering design, manufacture and operation of products to the extent applicable and necessary for demonstration of compliance of conformity. For more details, please see circular Ref: CMD-I/2:17:1 dated 02 June 2023 with Subject ‘Guidelines for Grant of Licence (GoL) as per the conformity assessment Scheme – X of Schedule – II of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018’. Any product specific requirements for the technical file are indicated in the Product Manual for the respecting Indian Standard. The Product Manual for any Indian Standard can be accessed from <https://www.bis.gov.in/product-certification/product-specific-information-2/product-manualsmk/> .

Q18. Can I submit application for grant of licence under Scheme –X without Technical File?

A18: Technical File is a necessary document for grant of licence. Any application received without complete Technical File can be processed for rejection.

Q 19. Where can I test the product for establishing compliance to the relevant Indian Standard under Scheme -X?

A19: For certification under Scheme –X, the test reports submitted as part of the product compliance report shall be established through any of the following:

- a) Test reports from third party laboratories;
- b) Test report from manufacturers’ in-house laboratory.

For details please see CMD circular Ref: CMD-I/2:17:1 dated 02 June 2023 with Subject ‘Guidelines for Grant of Licence (GoL) as per the conformity assessment Scheme – X of Schedule – II of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018’ for more details.

Q20. From where can a foreign manufacturer get his product tested for grant of licence under Scheme – X?

A20: Please see response to Q19 above.

Q21. How much fees do I need to pay in order to get BIS licence?

A21: The applicant has to bear the cost of testing of the product. Further, the applicant also has to pay fee to BIS towards submission and processing of the application. Details of fee payable to BIS is available on BIS website under the following path:

<https://www.bis.gov.in/> >> Conformity Assessment >> Scheme – X >> Fees.

Q22. What are the conditions of BIS licence to use or apply a Standard Mark?

A22: Conditions of BIS licence to use or apply a Standard Mark are as given in Regulation 6 of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.

Q23. What is the validity of BIS product certification licence?

A23: The licence to use Standard Mark shall initially be granted for not less than three years and upto six years.

Q24. Are Manufacturer(s) permitted to manufacture /produce Goods and articles covered under Electrical Equipment Quality Control Amendment Order 2023 for export Business.

A24: Products manufactured for exports are not covered under the Electrical Equipment Quality Control Order.

Q25. Whether Product testing is required to include all accessories?

A25: Yes, all accessories need to be tested as per Product Specific Guidelines for Low Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear.

Q26. Can I submit a combination of in-house test report and report from outside lab for establishing conformity of the product?

A26: Yes, a combination of manufacturer's in-house test report and test report from outside lab is acceptable for establishing compliance of the product to the relevant Indian Standard. However, it shall be ensured that all the tests applicable for the product are tested. Further, it shall also be ensured that for any given test sequence prescribed in the Indian Standard, the complete sequence is tested at the same location, i.e. in-house or at outside laboratory. Part testing of any test sequence at in-house lab and remaining test or test sequence at outside lab is not permitted.

Q27. How to include an intermediate variant / rating of the Product in the existing License if there is no Construction Break.

A27: Grouping Guidelines notified by Ministry of Heavy Industries allow that for each product series type test report, a circuit breaker with maximum current rating and maximum features satisfying all operational performance criteria shall be tested. In this regard, the manufacturer shall declare the entire varieties of products covered under the product series of which only the representative variety shall be subject to testing.

Q28. How to include an intermediate variant / rating of the Product in the existing License if there is Construction Break.

A28: In case of Construction Break, the affected variety/ varieties shall be tested as per the Grouping Guidelines issued by Ministry of Heavy Industries. The test report for the variety/ varieties to be submitted to BIS along with a request for Change in Scope of the licence.

Q29. Where can I put the BIS Standard Mark? Can I put it only on the package?

A29: The Standard Mark is to be applied on the product as well as on the package. If it is not possible to apply on the product, then it is to be applied on the package.

If it is not possible to apply the Standard Mark on both product and package, then it is to be given on the test certificate.

Q30. I have a test report available with me for the applicable sequence as per standard since Jan 2023. Will they be considered for QCO application even if third Party Lab was not listed as approved BIS Lab the time of testing?

A30: The test report may be used as part of in-house test report by the manufacturer. As per Note of sl. No. 5 of CMD circular CMD-I/2:17:1 dt 02/06/2023 *"The test report issued by the third party laboratory (prior to issuance of these guidelines) available with the applicant may also be utilised for submission as part of the product-compliance report. Provided such test report shall not be older than 1 year from the date of submission of application. For type tests, test report which are less than 5 years old from the date of submission of application may also be accepted. In case any product specific guidelines are issued on this matter, the same shall be followed."*

Q31. If test facility is not available for the required testing, how to proceed with BIS certification?

A31: In case of non-availability of the manufacturer has the option to submit test report of in-house laboratory (including sub-contracting facilities) and witnessing by BIS officer.

Q32. My product is used as spares and Accessories in other assemblies. Do I still have to take licence for my product?

A32: BIS licence is mandatory for the products notified in the QCO even if the product is used as a spare/ accessory in other assemblies. In case of any exemption, the concerned Ministry may be contacted.

Q33. I manufacturer Low Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear products for various brand owners. Do I need to take separate licence for each brand, even if they are made in the same factory premises?

A33: The BIS certification under Scheme-X is based on product type/variety. Details about brand name are to be declared to BIS for information purposes only.

Q34. Whether Product testing is required to include all accessories?

A34: Yes, all accessories need to be tested, as per Product Specific Guidelines for Low Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear.

Q35. Where can I find the list of Documents/reports required to be submitted for grant of licence under Scheme – X?

A35: List of documents to be submitted at the time of Grant of licence/ change in scope of licence is given in the Product Manual for the product. The same is available on BIS website.

Q36. I manufacture Circuit-breakers for selectivity category A as well as Circuit-breaker for selectivity category B. Both the circuit-breakers are covered in different phases of the QCO. How do I get licence for both the varieties?

A36: The timelines for mandatory BIS licence for circuit- breakers is clearly defined in the QCO based on the rating of the product and selectivity category.

However, if a manufacturer wants to get BIS licence for his product with selectivity category B along with his BIS licence for selectivity category A, the same is permitted.

Q37. Can BIS grant any extension or exemption from the QCOs?

A37: Any exemptions like non-applicability of the Order on specific product(s), product(s) meant for export, extension of the date of commencement of QCO etc. come under the purview of the Line Ministry (Regulator) who has issued the QCO i.e. Ministry of Heavy Industries in case of EEQCO. Wherever exemptions are permitted, these are clearly brought out in respective QCO itself such as exemption for products meant for export.