



## Significance of the bureau of Indian standards (BIS) act, 1986

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### Abstract

BIS is a statutory, autonomous body set up under BIS Act, 1986 on 1st April 1987. The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 has taken over all functions whichever were performed by 151 with effect from 1st April 1987. This was done because a need was felt that the National Standards Body of the country should keep pace with the changing socio-economic scenario, industrial progress, technological advancement and rising expectation of the consumers at home for quality goods. With the enactment of this Act, the Indian Standards Institution (Certification marks), Act, 1952 stands repealed.

**Keywords:** BIS, socio-economic scenario, industrial progress

### Introduction

BIS is a statutory, autonomous body set up under BIS Act, 1986 on 1st April 1987. The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 has taken over all functions whichever were performed by 151 with effect from 1st April 1987.<sup>22</sup> This was done because a need was felt that the National Standards Body of the country should keep pace with the changing socio-economic scenario, industrial progress, technological advancement and rising expectation of the consumers at home for quality goods. With the enactment of this Act, the Indian Standards Institution (Certification marks), Act, 1952 stands repealed.

### Objectives and Scope

The BIS Act, 1986 inter alia provides for the following objectives:

- Harmonious development of the activities of standardization & certification marking of goods.
- Empowers the Government to introduce mandatory certification of any article or process of any scheduled industry in the public interest.
- The right of complaint regarding quality of products to the consumer and recognized association of consumers.
- More stringent penal provisions against misuse of certification marks; and
- Empowers the Central Government to issue direction to the Bureau on questions of policy so that it may align its programme and functions with national priorities.

### Salient Features of the Act.

Large number of interest groups are representing to the Bureau: viz., producers, consumers, consumer associations, government, academic institutes and other organizations and bulk consumers like railways and defence, and also small - scale producers. Basically the standardization movement is a voluntary phenomenon. It is up to the producer to decide whether to opt for conformity with the standards and obtain certification marks.

Those who obtain certification marks can stamp the 151 mark on their products. This voluntary character of certification is a universal phenomenon. The role of BIS is to lay down standards and specifications which will assure safety of the products of reasonably good quality. It also evolves the standards for test methods and procedures and testing equipment.

### Standard Formulation

BIS is formulating need-based Indian Standard in line with the national priorities as a time-bound programme. The Bureau has taken a decision to harmonise national standards with regional and international standards in order to facilitate adoption of international standards by all segments of business and industry. The progress on activities relating to formulation of Indian standard is given:

### Progress of Standard Formulation

Table 1

S. No	Activities	Progress during	
		2002-2003	2003-2004
1.	New and revised standards formulated	488	446
2.	Sectional Committee meetings	172	190
3.	Draft Standards Finalized	424	384
4.	Draft Standards sent for wide circulation	260	291
5.	Standards in Force	17830	17928
6.	Review of Standards	3818	2937

There is an exception to the voluntary character of standardization. They are products of mass consumption or products having concerns for safety of health hazards. In those cases standards have been made statutory and certification compulsory. These products so far are as follows:

- Food Additives (Food Grade).
- Milk Products like Milk Powders.
- For Miners - Leather Boots and Shoes, Safety, Helmets, Comp, Lamp, Batteries, Flame Proof, Electrical

- Equipment, Wire Ropes, etc.
- Cement, Ordinary and Portland.
- LPG Cylinders.
- Steel Tubes for Water Walls.
- Steel and Products like structural steel, galvanized steel sheets (plain or corrugated).
- Vanaspati, Vanaspati Containers.
- Pressure Stoves; Burners.
- Dry Cell Batteries, Electric Lamps, Electric Appliances like Irons, Immersion Water Heaters, radiators, stoves, switches for domestics and similar purposes, 2-Amp Switches, three pin plugs, and socket outlets, etc.
- Mineral water in pet bottles

### Functions

Section 10 of the Act provides for the functions of the BIS. The Bureau has been given the powers to:

- a) Establish, publish, and promote in such manner as may be prescribed by the Indian standards to any article or process
- b) recognize as an Indian standard in such manner as may be prescribed by any standard established by any other institution in India or elsewhere in relation to any article or process;
- c) specify a standard mark to be called the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark which may be of such design and contain such particulars as may be prescribed to represent a particular Indian Standard;
- d) Grant, renew, suspend, or cancel a licence for the use of the standard mark;
- e) Levy fees for the grant or renewal of any licence;
- f) Make such inspection and take such samples of any material or substance as may be necessary to see whether any article or process in relation to which the standard mark has been used conforms to the Indian standard or whether the standard Mark has been improperly used with or without a licence;
- g) Recognize the Bureau and the Indian standards outside India on terms and conditions which may be mutually agreed upon by the Bureau with corresponding institution or organization in any country;
- h) Establish, maintain, and recognize laboratories for the purposes of standardization and quality control;
- i) undertake research for the formulation of Indian standards in the interest of the consumers and manufacturers;
- j) Recognize any institution in India or outside which is engaged in the standardization of any article or process, or in the improvement of the quality of any article or process;
- k) Provide services to manufacturers and consumers of articles or processes on mutually agreed upon terms and conditions;
- l) Appoint agents in India and outside for inspection, testing and such other prescribed purposes;
- m) Establish branches, offices, or agencies in India or outside;
- n) Inspect any article, or process in relation to which the Standard Mark is used.

Section 11 prohibits the improper usage of the Standard Mark. Except under a licence, no person shall, use in relation to any article or process or in the title or any patent, or in any trade mark or design the Standard Mark or any colorable imitation thereof.

Section 14 empowers the central Government to modify any article, process or any schedule industry which can be produced only under the licence from the Bureau.

Sec 26 empowers the inspecting officer the entry into and search a place, premises or vehicle where article or process are secreted in contravention of sec 11 or 12. It further empowers inspecting officer to search such articles. Sec 28 provides for supply of information to Bureau by the Licences.

Sec 30 provides that information obtained by Ist inspecting officer or the Bureau under the provisions of this Act shall be kept confidential except for the purposes of Prosecution of any person under this Act.

Section 33 provides for penalty for improper use of the Standard Mark.

The complaint for the offences under the Act may be made by or under the authority of the Government or the Bureau or by any other officer appointed in this behalf by the Government or the Bureau, or any consumer association recognized by the Central or State Government.

There is a single mechanism to identify quality without going into technical details of the product. It is the ISI-mark certification given by Bureau of Indian Standards. BIS (Erstwhile ISI) is a third party assurance of quality which ensures that the product conforms to certain Indian Standards and is on a product tested under well-defined Quality Control System governed by BIS rules and regulations.

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