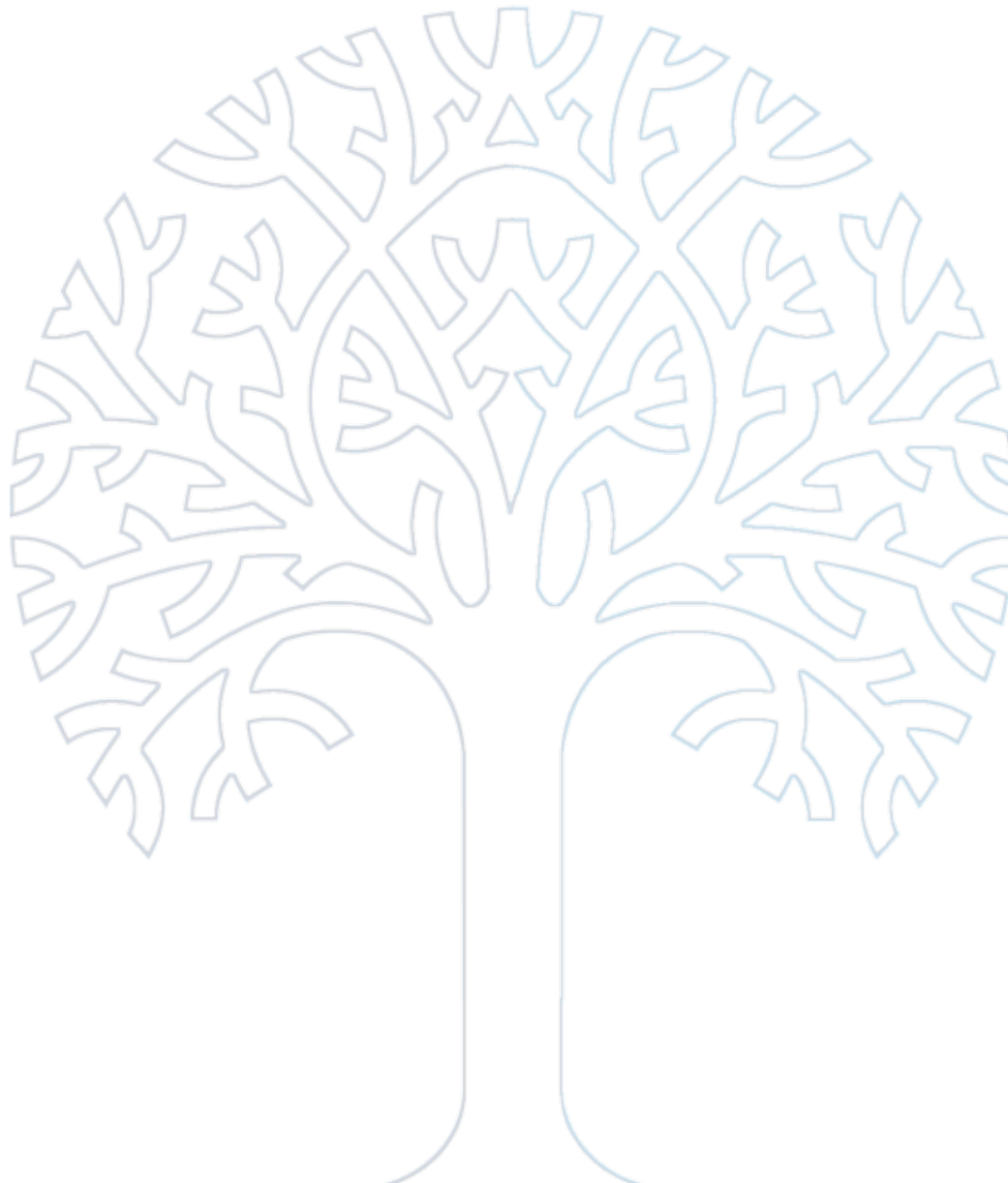




Lakshmikumaran
Sridharan
attorneys
SINCE 1985

exceeding expectations

JUNE 2025 / Issue – 12



BIS amicus

A monthly e-newsletter on developments related
to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys

India

Table of Contents

News Nuggets..... 3

Article

 Understanding the QCOs on Household,
 Commercial and Electrical Appliances.....8

QCO Updates..... 12





News Nuggets

Inter-ministerial group has been set up to assess QCOs

The government has setup an inter-ministerial group to assess QCOs proposed by various ministries, aiming for a unified approach. This group will assess the necessity and content of the QCOs and address concerns about their impact on various sectors, as well as highlight potential trade implications.

[Source: The Economic Times, as available [here](#)]

Enforcement of BIS standard for bicycle helmets

BIS has created a new standard for helmets for cyclists, skateboarders and roller skaters. BIS authorities conducted an awareness workshop for these helmets in Chennai, and continuous to reach out to stakeholders and cycling groups.

[Source: The Hindu, as available [here](#)]

Complying with safety requirements for electrical appliances is necessary

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, recently held discussions with the representatives of the electronics industry regarding enhancement of the safety of electrical appliances for consumers.

[Source: The Free Press Journal, as available [here](#)]

New BIS Standard for washers in works

BIS is in the process of formulating new quality standards for washers that are used to clean root and tuber vegetables, in order to boost hygiene of the vegetables and increase the value of Indian vegetables during export.

[Source: Live Mint, as available [here](#)]

BIS Hallmarking Scheme for jewellery to expand

The Union Minister, Pralhad Joshi, has instructed BIS to expand its mandatory hallmarking scheme beyond 371 districts, aiming to enhance consumer protection through improving quality assurance.

[Source: Devdiscourse, as available [here](#)]

BIS conducts raid at warehouse of FirstCry in Bengaluru

BIS conducted a major search and seizure operation at the warehouse of FirstCry in Bengaluru, seizing goods worth approximately INR 1.43 crore, including toys, sippers and other products that were being sold without BIS certification or with misused Indian Standard marks.

[Source: Money Control, as available [here](#)]

BIS Hyderabad raids steel hinges factory

A hinges factory in Sangareddy was raided, and a large stock of door steel butt hinges marked with incorrect BIS markings were found, without a valid BIS license. As per reports, the illegal manufacture constitutes a clear violation of Section 17(3) of the BIS Act, 2016, which prohibits any person or entity from using or applying the BIS Standard Mark—or any imitation thereof—on products without a valid licence from the Bureau.

[Source: NewsMeter, as available [here](#)]

BIS Bengaluru hosts session on national lighting code

The Bengaluru branch of BIS recently conducted a session to discuss the revision of the National Lighting Code of India. The rationale for the revision was discussed, highlighting the advancements in lighting technology that have taken place over the past few years, and focusing on energy efficient designs.

[Source: The Hindu, as available [here](#)]

Startup meet by BIS and IIT-B to drive innovation through standards and quality compliance

Above 100 startups and entrepreneurs gathered at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay for a startup meet organised by BIS. The event focused on the significance of standardisation in increasing product quality and improving the global competitiveness of Indian startups.

[Source: The Free Press Journal, as available [here](#)]

Regular visits for ensuring compliance with BIS standards in Darjeeling

In order to ensure food safety across the city of Siliguru, the Mayor has announced that special inspection teams will be conducting surprise visits to hotels, restaurants, eateries and street food stalls regularly, in accordance with the BIS and food safety standards.

[Source: The Statesman, as available [here](#)]

BIS and Odisha government collaborate for organising state-level meeting

BIS in collaboration with the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, Government of Odisha, organised a state-level meeting on standardisation. In the meeting, emphasis was laid on raising awareness about Indian Standards among government officials and consumers. The requirement for collaborating with industries was discussed, in order to increase implementation of the standards.

[Source: Pragativadi, as available [here](#)]



Article

Understanding the QCO on household, commercial and electrical appliances

By Anjali Hirawat and Riya Sinha

Introduction

In a significant move to bolster consumer safety and enhance the quality of electrical appliances in India, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade ('**DPIIT**') has issued the 'Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2025' ('**QCO**'), on 19 May 2025.

This QCO was published in the Official Gazette in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 16 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, and in supersession of the Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2024.

This QCO is to be implemented on 19 March 2026, and mandates compliance for a wide range of electrical appliances. The implementation date for small enterprises is on 19 June 2026, and for micro enterprises is on 19 September 2026, as defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. This phased approach has been taken to ease compliance burdens.

Scope of the QCO

The QCO applies to electrical appliances intended for household, commercial and similar appliances with a rated voltage not exceeding 250V for single-phase alternating current or 480V for other appliances, including direct current and battery-operated devices.

The QCO includes products such as vacuum cleaners, cooking ranges, ovens, electrical shavers, tumbler dryers, warming plates, massage appliances, frying pans, electrical heating tools, dishwashers, clothes dryers, and fabric steamers, amongst various others. However, the list of products provided in the QCO is merely illustrative, and any electrical appliance with a rated voltage not exceeding 250V for single-phase alternating current or 480V for other appliances, including direct current and battery-operated devices, can be covered under the ambit of the QCO.

The QCO mandates that all the appliances covered under it must bear the BIS standard mark, obtained through a license under Scheme-I of Schedule-II to the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.

The QCO is aimed at ensuring product safety and quality under the Indian Standard 302 (Part 1) : 2024/ IEC 60335-1 : 2020, which covers '*Household and Similar Electrical Appliances – Safety Part 1 General Requirements*'.

However, it may be noted that there are certain exclusions mentioned under the QCO:

- a) ***Goods covered by other QCOs***: Appliances that are already covered by other QCOs are excluded, in order to ensure clarity in its regulatory scope.
- b) ***Export goods***: The QCO is not applicable to goods or articles that are manufactured domestically for the purpose of export
- c) ***Existing inventory***: The QCO is not applicable to goods that are manufactured or imported before the date of implementation. This exemption is available for up to six months from the date of implementation of the QCO. This is subject to the condition that (i) the manufacturer either has a BIS certification, or has applied for BIS certification, as on the date of implementation of the QCO; and (ii) the manufacturer makes a declaration to BIS with regard to the goods that are in stock.
- d) ***Research and development***: The QCO is not applicable for up to 200 goods or articles that are imported for the purpose of research and development by manufacturers. This is subject to the condition that such imported goods or articles are not sold commercially and can be disposed of as scrap. In order to avail this exemption, manufacturers are required to maintain a year-wise record of the imported goods or articles and furnish the same, when required by the Central Government.

Impact of the QCO

Due to its wide-ranging ambit, concerns were raised by the industry over the implementation of the subject QCO. Industry stakeholders have highlighted difficulties in compliance, testing capacity, identification of products covered under the ambit of the QCO, and supply chain complexities. In this regard, DPIIT organised a stakeholder meeting chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry to

address these industry concerns. He laid emphasis on the positive impact of QCOs in enhancing product quality and boosting the global competitiveness of Indian manufacturers.

The extended timeline for small and micro enterprises also reflects the government's responsiveness to these concerns, however, small and micro might still face financial strain due to certification costs and stock management.

From a consumer perspective, the QCO promises a safer and more reliable experience while purchasing electrical appliances, thereby reducing the risks of electrical hazards. The uniform industry standards help foster the trust of consumers.

However, the implementation of the QCO could also lead to short-term price increase for consumers since manufacturers and importers will have to pass on the compliance costs to consumers.

Conclusion

The QCO aims to restrict the import and manufacture of substandard products, so as to enhance the global reputation of the appliances made in India. This aligns with the vision of the government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Made in India' initiatives, encouraging domestic manufacturing, while also being an important step to enhance consumer safety. However, challenges such as compliance costs, testing capacity, etc., must be addressed in order to ensure a smooth transition.

[The authors are Partner and Senior Associate, respectively, in BIS practice at Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys, Mumbai]



QCO Updates

QCO Updates – May 2025

For ease of reference, we have compiled a comprehensive set of data covering the following:

- **Upcoming QCOs** – Notified and due for implementation
- **QCOs notified in the Official Gazette:** Published by the respective line Ministries of the Central Government, in consultation with the BIS under Section 16 of the BIS Act, 2016
- **QCOs notified on the WTO-TBT portal, 'ePing':** These are draft QCOs notified by India for WTO member countries to review and give comments. They are yet to be finalized and are not published in the Official Gazette yet.
- **Amendments/extensions** to the existing QCOs

QCOs to be implemented in the upcoming months

In the upcoming months, from June 2025 to August 2025, a total of 43 products will be covered under the ambit of QCOs. Here's an overview of the same:

	June	July	August
No. of Products	13	5	11
Ministry/ Department which has issued the QCO	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 5	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 1 Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – 10	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – 3 Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals – 4 Ministry of Textile – 1

			Ministry of Heavy Industries - 20
Products	Polypropylene Materials for Moulding and Extrusion, etc.	Cabinet Hinges, Parliament Hinges, Flashlight, Poly-Laminated aluminium cable wrap, etc.	Stainless steels seamless pipes, Acetic Acid, Methanol, Cotton Bales, all types of centrifuges, all types of pumps, all types of cranes, etc.

Industries likely to be impacted:

- Machinery and electrical equipment;
- Tool manufacturing; and
- Chemical and Petrochemical Industries/ Companies, among others.

LKS Comments

All the manufacturers (both domestic and foreign) of the products listed above shall be required to obtain BIS certification in order to comply with the QCOs. However, subject to the facts and circumstances of the case, the manufacturers may also seek an exemption or extension of the QCO by drafting a representation to BIS/line ministry, as the case may be.

QCOs notified in the Official Gazette in May 2025

Sr. No.	Order Title
1.	Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2025
2.	Electrical Appliances for Commercial Dispensing and Vending (Quality Control) Order, 2025
3.	Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Products (Quality Control) Order, 2025

QCOs notified by India on the WTO-TBT portal – ‘ePing’

Sr. No.	Order Title	Notification Date
1.	Office Memorandum.pdf Reinforcement Couplers for Mechanical Splices (Quality Control) Order, 2025	6 May 2025
2.	O.M to DoC regarding Chain Hoist QCO.pdf Chain Pulley Block, Ratchet Lever Hoist and Universal Gearless Pulling and Lifting Machine (Quality Control) Order, 2024	22 May 2025

LKS Comments

India has notified two QCOs on the WTO-TBT portal in May. The first one covers Reinforcement Couplers, and the second one covers Chain Pulley Blocks, Ratchet Level Hoist and Universal Gearless Pulling and Lifting Machines. Both of these QCOs have been issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

While the draft QCOs notified on the WTO website are yet to be notified in the Official Gazette, we suggest that manufacturers start the necessary procedures to comply with the relevant Indian Standards mentioned in the draft QCOs.

Extensions to the existing QCOs

Sr. No.	Order Title	Date of Implementation
1.	H Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2024	13 August 2025
2.	K Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2024	13 May 2026
3.	Vinyl Sulphone (Quality Control) Order, 2024	13 August 2025

LKS Comments

The dates of implementation of multiple QCOs notified by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have been extended.

BIS - All India/ Global First Licence

BIS issued the All India/ Global First Licence, that is, the first licence ever issued for a certain product/Indian Standard for the following products in May 2025:

Sr. No.	Product	Indian Standard	Company
1.	Bicycle Hub Assembly	IS 629 : 2013	M/s. Cute Cycles Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Poly Pallets for Bag Storage Godowns	IS 13664 : 1993	M/s. Kusum Packaging Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Acetic Anhydride	IS 1235 : 2023	M/s. Laxmi Organic Industries Ltd.
4.	4, 4'-Diaminostilbene-2, 2'-Disulphonic Acid	IS 4265 : 1975	M/s. Deepak Nitrite Limited

5.	Coated Folding Box Board for General Consumer Product Packaging	IS 16984 : 2024	M/s. ITC Limited – PSPD, Divisional Head Quarters
6.	Solid Bleached Sulphate Board	IS 16983 : 2024	M/s. ITC Limited – PSPD, Divisional Head Quarters
7.	Ethyl Acetate	IS 229 : 2021	M/s. Laxmi Organic Industries Ltd.

NEW DELHI 7th Floor, Tower E, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, Delhi – 110029 Phone: +91-11-41299800, +91-11-46063300 E-mail : lsdel@lakshmisri.com ; iprdel@lakshmisri.com	MUMBAI 2nd floor, B&C Wing, Cnergy IT Park, Appa Saheb Marathe Marg, (Near Century Bazar)Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400025 Phone : +91 (22) 30567800/ (22) 30567801 E-mail : lsbom@lakshmisri.com
CHENNAI DoorNo. 27, Tank Bund Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600034 Phone : +91-44-2833 4700 E-mail : lsmds@lakshmisri.com	BENGALURU 4th floor, World Trade Center, Brigade Gateway Campus, 26/1, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Malleswaram West, Bangalore-560 055. Phone : +91-80-49331800 Fax: +91-80-49331899 E-mail : lsblr@lakshmisri.com
HYDERABAD 'Hastigiri', 5-9-163, Chapel Road, Opp. Methodist Church, Nampally, Hyderabad - 500 001 Phone : +91-40-2323 4924 E-mail : lshyd@lakshmisri.com	AHMEDABAD B-334, SAKAR-VII, Nehru Bridge Corner, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380 009 Phone : +91-79-4001 4500 E-mail : lsahd@lakshmisri.com
PUNE 607-609, Nucleus, 1 Church Road, Camp, Pune-411 001. Phone : +91-20-6680 1900 E-mail : ls pune@lakshmisri.com	KOLKATA 6A, Middleton Street, Chhabildas Towers, 7th Floor, Kolkata – 700 071 Phone : +91 (33) 4005 5570 E-mail : lskolkata@lakshmisri.com
CHANDIGARH 1st Floor, SCO No. 31, Sector 26, Chandigarh -160026 Phone : +91-172-4921700 E-mail : lschd@lakshmisri.com	GURUGRAM OS2 & OS3, 5th floor, Corporate Office Tower, Ambience Island, Sector 25-A, Gurugram-122001 phone: +91-0124 - 477 1300 Email: ls gurgaon@lakshmisri.com
PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD) 3/1A/3, (opposite Auto Sales), Colvin Road, (Lohia Marg), Allahabad -211001 (U.P.) Phone : +91-532-2421037, 2420359 E-mail : lsallahabad@lakshmisri.com	KOCHI First floor, PDR Bhavan, Palliyil Lane, Foreshore Road, Ernakulam Kochi-682016 Phone : +91-484 4869018; 4867852 E-mail : lskochi@laskhmisri.com
JAIPUR 2nd Floor (Front side), Unique Destination, Tonk Road, Near Laxmi Mandir Cinema Crossing, Jaipur - 302 015 Phone : +91-141-456 1200 E-mail : lsjaipur@lakshmisri.com	NAGPUR First Floor, HRM Design Space, 90-A, Next to Ram Mandir, Ramnagar, Nagpur - 440033 Phone: +91-712-2959038/2959048 E-mail : lsnagpur@lakshmisri.com

Disclaimer: *LKS BIS Amicus* is meant for informational purpose only and does not purport to be advice or opinion, legal or otherwise, whatsoever. The information provided is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship and not for advertising or soliciting. Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan does not intend to advertise its services or solicit work through this newsletter. Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan or its associates are not responsible for any error or omission in this newsletter or for any action taken based on its contents. The views expressed in the article(s) in this newsletter are personal views of the author(s). Unsolicited mails or information sent to Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan will not be treated as confidential and do not create attorney-client relationship with Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan. This issue covers news and developments till 31 May 2025. To unsubscribe, e-mail Knowledge Management Team at newsletters@lakshmisri.com or km@lakshmisri.com.