

ONTRO

BIS CERTIFICATION: A NEW ERA FOR THE INDIAN FURNITURE INDUSTRY

he Indian furniture industry is undergoing a transformative phase with the introduction of mandatory BIS certification. This government mandate is aimed at ensuring product quality and safety.

The industry is currently experiencing a period of growth, with many SME's taking the lead. While there is still room for expansion and resource gathering, this presents a unique opportunity for businesses to innovate and scale up.

By embracing the challenges and leveraging the potential, manufacturers can position themselves for significant growth and success.

The Government of India has issued Quality Control Orders (QCO) on several wood & furniture products. BIS Certification ensures that the product adheres to specified BIS standards and requires manufacturers to obtain certification license by the BIS.

Its compliance is obligatory on all economic operators from manufacturers (including overseas manufacturers whose products are imported into India) to distributors, stockist, to retailers.

NAVIGATING THE BIS JOURNEY: A GUIDE FOR INDIAN FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS

To give the industry at large deeper insights into the BIS journey, F+D had an interesting and in-depth conversation with Huzefa Samplewala (HS), President, Association of Furniture Manufacturers & Traders (AFMT), India on BIS.

F+D: Thank you for joining us today Mr. Samplewala. Can you give us an outline of the recent QCOs for the wood and furniture industry?

HS: Thank you for inviting me to be part of this very important conversation. After being part of the industry for over 30 years, I can tell you with great confidence that the current and upcoming norms are both revolutionary and evolutionary for our industry. We understand that for concrete growth – both domestic and international – implementing these new QCOs and standards is the only way forward.

Basically, DPIIT has issued draft notifications on products pertaining to the wood and furniture industry. The purpose of the QCO is to ensure that products meet certain prescribed quality, safety and performance requirements before they can be manufactured, imported, stored or sold in India. The government proposes to bring wooden furniture under QCO from 2025.

While Draft QCOs have been formally notified on the WTO website for Wood based Boards and door fittings, other draft notifications under active consideration are for Plywood, Door shutters and six categories of furniture products of common office and domestic use.

F+D: We are given to understand that other than the QCOs Wood based products, there are also QCOs for specific furniture products.

HS: That is true, the QCOs have been expanded further. The draft QCOs for furniture outlines specific requirements which are mandatory for furniture items such as work chairs, general-purpose

chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds, and bunk beds. Currently, compliance with the existing Indian standards is voluntary for these furniture articles but will become compulsory once the QCO enters into force.

This was notified through the WTO TBT Enquiry Point to WTO members and the date of adoption was not indicated in the notification. The draft provides that the measure will enter into force 12 months after its adoption and publication.

Further, as mentioned earlier, there are very specific tests needed to be carried out based on the standards prescribed. Details of test requirements for specific furniture items including work chairs, general purpose chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds are as follows:



	Products covered	Original Notification / implementation date	Revised Notification / implementation date
The Wood Based Boards (Quality Control) Order, 2024	 Block boards (IS 1659) Prelaminated particle boards from wood and other Lignocellulosic Material (IS 12823) Particle boards of wood and other lignocellulosic materials (medium density) for general purposes(IS 3087) Medium density fibre boards for general purpose(IS 12406) Veneered particle boards(IS 3097) 	10 Aug 2023/ 10 Feb 2024 +3m + 3m	12 Mar 2024/ 11 Feb 2025 +3m + 3m
The Plywood and Wooden flush door shutters (Quality Control) Order, 2024	 Plywood for general purposes (IS 303) Wooden flush door shutters (solid core type) - Plywood face panels (IS 2202 (Part 1)) Marine plywood(IS 710) Fire retardant plywood (IS 5509) Veneered decorative plywood (IS 1328) Wooden flush door shutters (cellular and hollow core type) - Particle board & hardboard face panels(IS 2191(Part2)) Wooden flush door shutters (cellular and hollow core type) - Plywood face panels (IS 2191(Part1)) Wooden Flush Door Shutters (Solid core type) — Particle Board, High Density Fibre Board, Medium Density Fibre Board and Fibre Hardboard Face Panels (IS 2202(Part 2)) Plywood for concrete shuttering works – Specification (IS 4990) Structural plywood – Specification (IS 10701) 	29 Aug 2023/ 29 Feb 2024 +3m + 3m	15 Mar 2024/ 25 Feb 2025 +3m + 3m
The Resin treated compressed wood laminates (Quality Control) Order, 2024	 Resin treated compressed wood laminates - For electrical purposes (IS 3513(Part1)) Resin treated compressed wood laminates - For chemical purposes (IS 3513(Part2)) Resin treated compressed wood laminates - For general purposes (IS 3513(Part 3)) 	14 July 2023/ 14 Jan 2023 +3m + 3m	29 Feb 2024/ 14 Jan 2025 + 3 m + 3m











27 September 2023

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1.	Notifying Member: INDIA
	If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible:
	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
	Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:
	Shri Dheeraj Kumar Meena Under Secretary to the Government of India Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Ministry of Commerce and Industry Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi Telephone: +91-11-23038939 Email: <u>dheeraj.meena17@gov.in</u> Website: <u>https://dpiit.gov.in/</u>
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], 3.2 [], 7.2 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Furniture - Work chairs, General purpose chairs and stools, Tables and desks, Storage units, Beds, Bunk beds
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2023; (2 page(s), in English)
6.	Description of content: Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2023
	 It refers to movable objects intended to support various human activities such as seating, eating, storing items, eating and/or working with an item, and sleeping.
	 As per IS 17631:2022, title of Indian Standard "Work chairs" is a type of chair that is designed for use at a desk in an office. It is usually a swivel chair, with a set of wheels for mobility and adjustable height.
	 As per IS 17632:2022 title of Indian Standard "General purpose chairs and stools" is a type of seat, typically designed for one person and consisting of one or more legs, a flat or slightly angled seat and a back-rest and a stool is a raised seat commonly supported by three or four legs, but with neither armrests nor a backrest (in early stools), and typically built to accommodate one occupant.
	 As per IS 17633:2022 title of Indian Standard "Tables and desks". A table is generally a piece of furniture with a flat surface, typically used for dining or other activities. A desk is also a type of table, but it usually has drawers and

compartments to store items like documents and the principal materials of tables and desks are wooden table/desk, steel table/desk, plastic table/desk, etc.

- As per IS 17634:2022 title of Indian Standard "Storage units" are Storage Unit means a semi enclosed or fully enclosed area, room, or space that is primarily intended for the storage of personal property and which shall be accessible by the renter of the unit pursuant to the terms of the rental agreement.
- As per IS 17635:2022 title of Indian Standard "Beds" are a piece of furniture upon which or within which a person sleeps, rests, or stays when not well. The principal materials of beds are wooden bed, steel bed, plastic bed, etc.
- As per IS 17636:2022 title of Indian Standard "Bunk beds" Bunk beds are two beds that are attached to each other, one above the other, in a frame. The principal materials of bunk beds are wooden bunk bed, steel bunk bed, plastic bunk bed, etc.
- **7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:** Provide higher level of quality, reliability and consistency; Protection of the environment; Quality requirements

8. Relevant documents:

To be published in the Gazette of India

9. **Proposed date of adoption:** The date of notification in E-Gazette.

Proposed date of entry into force: Six months from the date of notification in E-Gazette.

10. Final date for comments: 60 days from the date of circulation of the notification

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:

Shri Dheeraj Kumar Meena Under Secretary to the Government of India Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Ministry of Commerce and Industry Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi Telephone: +91-11-23038939 Email: <u>dheeraj.meena17@gov.in</u> Website: <u>https://dplit.gov.in/</u>

https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2023/TBT/IND/23_12628_00_e.pdf

TEST REQUIREMENTS AS PER IS 17631, WORK CHAIRS

Ма		Safe	ty Requirements			
Fabric and	Natural Leather	Castors	Surface	Stability Test	Static-load	Durability
Synthetic Leather			Performance		Tests	Tests
 Synthetic Leather Breaking load Elongation at break Tear strength Colour fastness to light Colour fastness to rubbing Colour fastness to perspiration Colour fastness to perspiration Colour fastness to vater Pilling resistance Coating adhesion strength Seam slippage Resistance to damage by flexing Abrasion 	 Tear strength Flexing endurance Finish adhesion Colour fastness to artificial light Colour fastness to rubbing Colour fastness to water spotting Colour fastness to water spotting Colour fastness to water spotting Colour fastness to water spotting Colour fastness to water spotting 	Castors or wheels shall be as per IS 17524	 Performance Resistance to mechanical damage Pencil hardness Resistance to wet heat Resistance to dry heat Resistance to marking by cold liquids Resistance to marking by cold oils and fats Adhesive performance 	 Front Edge Overturning Forwards Overturning Forwards Forwards Overturning for Chairs with Foot Rest Sideways Overturning for Chairs without Arm Rests Sideways Overturning for Chairs without Arm Rests Sideways Overturning for Chairs without Arm Rests Sideways Overturning for Chairs with Arm Rests Rearwards Overturning for Chairs with Arm Rests Rearwards Overturning for Chairs without Back Rest Inclination Rearwards 	Tests1) Seat Front Edge Static Load Test2) Combined Seat and Back Static Load Test3) Arm Rest Downward Static Load Test — Central	Tests1) Seat and Back Durability (Total of 260,000 cycles)2) Arm Rest Durability (60,000 cycles)3) Swivel Test (120,000 cycles)4) Foot-rest Durability (50,000 cycles)5) Castor and Chair-Base Durability (100,000 cycles)
resistance 13) Bursting strength 14) Resistance to				Overturning for Chairs with Backrest		
cold.				Inclination		





TEST REQUIREMENTS AS PER IS 17632, CHAIRS & STOOLS

Γ	Aaterial Tests		S	afety Requirements	
Fabric and	Natural Leather	Surface	Stability Test	Strength Test	Durability
Synthetic Leather		Performance		(all at 10 cycles)	Tests
 Breaking load Elongation at break Tear strength Colour fastness to light Colour fastness to rubbing Colour fastness to perspiration Colour fastness to perspiration Colour fastness to vater Pilling resistance Coating adhesion strength Seam slippage Resistance to damage by flexing Abrasion resistance Bursting strength 14) Resistance to cold. 	 Tear strength Flexing endurance Finish adhesion Colour fastness to artificial light Colour fastness to rubbing Colour fastness to water spotting Water vapour permeability Colour fastness to water. 	 Resistance to mechanical damage Pencil hardness Resistance to wet heat Resistance to dry heat Resistance to marking by cold liquids Resistance to marking by cold oils and fats Adhesive perform -ance. 	 Forwards Overbalancing Sideways Overbalancing for Chairs without Arm Rearwards Overturning Sideways overturning for chairs with arms Overbalancing in all sides stools/poufs 	 Seat Static Load Test Back Static Load Test Arm Rest/wings sideways Static Load Test Arm downwards static load test Leg forward static load test Leg sideways static load test Leg sideways static load test Leg sideways static load test Sootrest static load test Seat Impact test Back Impact Test Arm Impact Test Drop test 	 Seat Fatigue test (T1:50,00 0 & T2:10000 0 cycles) Back Fatigue Test (T1:50,00 0 & T2:10000 0 cycles) Arm Rest Durability (T1:1000 0 & T2:40000 cycles)
					T
E		D		1	





TEST REQUIREMENTS AS PER IS 17633, TABLES & DESKS

Tests			Safety Requirements			
Performance Categories	Dimensions	Surface Performance	Stability Test (under different forces for different Surface Areas)	Strength Test for Office Tables Magnitude & Cycles	Strength Test for Domestic Tables Magnitude & Cycles	
 a) Office tables b) Domestic tables 	Dimensions of tables shall be as per IS 3663	 Resistance to mechanical damage Pencil hardness Resistance to wet heat Resistance to dry heat Resistance to marking by cold liquids Resistance to marking by cold oils and fats Adhesive performance. 	 Office Tables Stability under vertical load, N Stability under vertical load with extension elements open, N Static load for stability under horizontal load, N Stability under horizontal force, N Domestic Tables Stability under horizontal force, N Domestic Tables Stability under horizontal force, N Datability under vertical load Ancillary surface, N Stability under vertical load with extension elements open, N Static load for stability under vertical load, with extension elements open, N Static load for stability under vertical load, N Static load for stability under horizontal load, N Stability under horizontal load, N 	 Strength under vertical static forces, N Strength under vertical static forces (occasional heavy loads test), N Strength under horizontal static forces Test force, N Minimum horizontal force, N Durability under vertical forces, N Durability under horizontal forces Test force, N Stiffness of the structure under horizontal force, mm/m of height, Max Durability of the height adjustment mechanism, kg Vertical impact test for tables with glass in their construction (Drop height), mm Safety glass Other glass Deflection of table tops, mm/m of length, Max Durability of tables with castors, kg Drop test, Nominal drop height, mm 	 Strength under vertical static forces, N Main surface for tables with height less than or equal to 600 mm Main surface for tables with height greater than 600 mm Ancillary surface Strength under horizontal static forces Test force, N Minimum horizontal force, N Durability under vertical forces, N Durability under horizontal force, N Durability under horizontal force, N Durability under horizontal forces, N Durability under horizontal force, N Durability under horizontal force, N Durability under horizontal force, N Durability under horizontal force, N Stiffness of the structure under horizontal force, M Durability of the height adjustment mechanism, kg Vertical impact test for tables with glass in their construction (Drop height), mm Safety glass Other glass Vertical impact test for all other table tops (Drop height), mm Deflection of table tops, mm/m of 	
1					length, Max 10) Durability of tables with castors, kg 11) Drop test, Nominal drop height, mm	





TEST REQUIREMENTS AS PER IS 17634, STORAGE UNITS

	Ma	aterial Tests	Test Leveles	s Safety Requirements			
	Fabric and	Natural Leather		Strength Tests	Strength	Forces for	Durability Tests
Sy	nthetic Leather			on test loads	Tests	Stability Tests	(For each 3
				&	on test loads	(For each 3	Levels)
				Forces(For	& Forces	Levels),	
				each 3 Levels)	(3 Levels)	Loading	
1) 2) 3) 4) 5) 6) 7) 8) 9) 10) 11) 12) 13) 14)	Breaking load Elongation at break Tear strength Colour fastness to rubbing Colour fastness to perspiration Colour fastness to water Pilling resistance Coating adhesion strength Seam slippage Resistance to damage by flexing Abrasion resistance Bursting strength Resistance to cold.	 Tear strength Flexing endurance Finish adhesion Colour fastness to artificial light Colour fastness to water spotting Colour fastness to water vapour perme- ability Colour fastness to water. 	Level 1: Domestic Level 2: Institutional (Light) Level 3: Institutional (Heavy)	 Shelf deflection; strength of shelf supports Sustained, height-based static load test for tops & bottoms Clothes-rail support strength & dislodge-ment Test & drop test - structure, underframe Vertical load - pivoted doors 900-900+ mm ht Pivoted doors horizontal load & slam-shut test Durability - pivoted doors 900, 1500mm & beyond Slam shut/ open test - sliding doors, horizontal & vertical roll- fronts Strength - bottom-hinged flaps; drop test - top-hinged flaps Extension elements strength-slam shut/open test Displacement - extension elements Strength test - locking-latching mechanisms of extension elements, mechanism doors, flaps & roll-fronts Top load ease cycle test Durability, drop, sustained load & dislodgement test - seating surface units Floor support units 	 Door Baskets (Kg/m2) Extension Elements (Kg/m3) Suspended pocket files(Kg/m length) Impact Plates for Testing Strength of Shelf Supports (For each 3 Levels) Mass (excluding rubber) (Kg) Approxi- mate width (mm) Approxi- mate thickness (mm) Length (mm) 	 Doors, extension elements and flaps closed, all storage units unloaded - Units that are or can be adjusted to height of equal, less or greater than 1000 mm Vertical Force-N Opening doors, extension elements & flaps, all storage units unloaded- NA All storage areas unloaded, all doors, extension elements and flaps open-NA All storage areas unloaded & unloaded with overturning load: Vertical force-N Components a) < 1000 mm from floor Components a) < 1000 mm & < 1600 mm from floor Doors, extension elements and flaps closed and locked; Outward force-N Vertical force stability test for storage units; mass, kg Stability test for pedes- tals/storage units with seat surfaces: Vertical force-N; Outward horizontal force-N (S) Dynamic stability test for units with castors; NA Strength test for wall attach- ments; Outward Force-N 	 Tests for units with castors or wheels (Unloaded unit weight ≤ 45 kg) Tests for units with castors or wheels (Unloaded unit weight > 45 kg) Durability of pivoted doors Durability of sliding doors and horizontal roll-fronts Durability of flaps Durability of vertical roll-fronts Durability of extension elements Durability test of locking and latching mechanism s Top load ease cycle test Durability test for units with seating surfaces – Cyclic impact





TEST REQUIREMENTS AS PER IS 17635, BEDS

Material Tests Safety Requirements					
Fabric and	Natural Leather	Surface	Stability Test	Strength Test	Durability
Synthetic Leather		Performance	Forces	(all at 10 cycles)	Tests
 Breaking load Elongation at break Tear strength Colour fastness to light Colour fastness to rubbing Colour fastness to perspiration Colour fastness to water Pilling resistance Coating adhesion strength Seam slippage Resistance to damage by flexing Abrasion resistance Bursting strength Resistance to cold. 	 Tear strength Flexing endurance Finish adhesion Colour fastness to artificial light Colour fastness to rubbing Colour fastness to water spotting Water vapour permeability Colour fastness to water. 	 Resistance to mechanical damage Pencil hardness Resistance to wet heat Resistance to dry heat Resistance to marking by cold liquids Resistance to marking by cold oils and fats Adhesive performance. 	Stability Test atF1600 NF2600 NF320 NF420 N	 Vertical static load on bed base Vertical static load on side rail Horizontal static load on headboard of beds ≤ 1 200 mm in width Horizontal static load on headboard of beds > 1 200 mm in width Horizontal static load test of beds without headboard 	 Vertical durability test of bed base (10000 cycles) Horizontal durability test of bed frame (10000 cycles) Horizontal durability test of headboard of beds ≤ 1 200 mm in width (20000 cycles) Horizontal durability test of headboard of beds > 1 200 mm in width (20000 cycles) Horizontal durability test of headboard of beds > 1 200 mm in width (20000 cycles) Horizontal durability test of headboard of beds > 1 200 mm in width (20000 cycles) Durability of Storage Elements Mech- anisms for Lifting Bed Bases Extendable Storage Elements





TEST REQUIREMENTS AS PER IS 17636, BUNK BEDS

Material Tests				Safe	ty Requirements		
Sy	Fabric and Inthetic Leather	Natural Leather	Surface Performance	Dimensions	Other Requirements	Strength of Frame and Fastenings	Stability test
1) 2) 3) 4)	Breaking load Elongation at break Tear strength Colour fastness to light	 Tear strength Flexing endurance Finish adhesion Colour 	 Resistance to mechanical damage Pencil hardness Resistance 	Dimensions shall be as per IS 5533	 Top Bed Safety Barriers Gaps Bed Base Ladders Attachment. 	Support fastenings	@Force : 120 N
5)	Colour fastness to rubbing	fastness to artificial light	d) Resistanced) Resistanced) Resistanceto dry heat		Deflection and Strength of		
6)	Colour fastness to perspiration	5) Colour fastness to rubbing	5) Resistance to marking by cold		Ladder and Treads Dimensions		
/) 2)	Colour fastness to water Billing	6) Colour fastness to water	liquids 6) Resistance to marking		of Treads 5) Fastening of Upper Bed		
9)	resistance Coating adhesion	7) Water vapour permeabili	by cold oils and fats 7) Adhesive perform-		Bed		
10)) Seam slippage) Resistance to damage by flexing	8) Colour fastness to water.	ance.			E	
12) 13) 14)	Abrasion resistance Bursting strength Resistance to cold.						

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OVERVIEW OF BIS CERTIFICATION PROCESS

F+D: The Bureau of Indian Standards is trying to make it easier to get the required BIS Certification & License. But can you highlight the procedure for more clarity?

HS: Getting the BIS Certificate is a process which involves several stages from identifying correct standards for the product being certified and preparation of documents for the application for submitting on the BIS portal to the document scrutiny, sample testing in BIS-approved laboratories and audit by BIS officers at the manufacturing location before the license is granted. Once the testing is complete and all documents in order, the manufacturer can apply for BIS Certification via the online portal link *https://www.bis.gov.in/apply-for-a-license/*

To clarify further, the online procedure is as follows:

- 1. Application process starts with identification of Indian Standard against the product for which license is desired.
- Indian Standard against a product can be searched and downloaded from the URL https://standardsbis. bsbedge.com/
- 3. Once the standard is identified the manufacturers are requested to analyse and document the requisite manufacturing infrastructure, appropriate process controls, quality control and testing capabilities for the product as per relevant Indian Standard (ISS)
- 4. For guidance of manufacturers, BIS has developed product specific

technical manuals which can be accessed from the URL - https://www. bis.gov.in/index.php/productcertification/product-specificinformation-2/product-manualsmk/

- 5. The Bureau grants the license 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 and 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.
- There are two options available for obtaining BIS product certification license under Scheme – I. For details, please see Guidelines for grant of license URL - https://www.bis.gov.in/ index.php/product-certification/ product-certification-process/
- Please refer to the URL https://www. bis.gov.in/PDF/cart/BIS_Conformity _Assessment_Regulation_2018_Gaz ette_Notification.pdf
- To know about details of fee (application, inspection & annual license fee). Product specific Marking Fees can be also be searched from the URL https://www.manakonline.in/MANA K/ApplicationLicenceRelatedrpt
- 9. The applications are accepted only through online mode including all payments.
- To submit your application, please visit *http://www.manakonline. in*/

For more information and details regarding Guidelines for Grant of Licence (GoL) please visit: *https://www.bis.gov. in/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GoL-Guidelines-06March2023.pdf*

F+D: Thank you for that detailed insight into the way forward for manufacturers to apply and get their BIS certification & license to enable them to implement the prescribed standards.

HS: This information is purely to assist the industry gain benefits via BIS licensing. While expanding the network of BIS laboratories is crucial for the industry, by adhering to BIS standards, manufacturers can enhance brand reputation, tap into wider markets and drive economic growth.

As the industry matures, it is crucial for stakeholders to collaborate and work towards streamlining the certification process to foster innovation and competitiveness. Ultimately, the implementation of BIS certification marks a significant step towards establishing India as a global furniture hub. I have to state that we, at the Association of Furniture Manufacturers & Traders (INDIA) AFMT, actively support our industry players across India.

We are actively organizing awareness programs to demystify the certification process and equip manufacturers with the necessary knowledge with respect to the BIS Quality Standards. AFMT is always there to support the industry and we look forward to ensuring that our industry progresses and achieves international standards so that our manufacturers can establish themselves not just regionally but nationally and internationally.



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