



BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

# Reforms in BIS

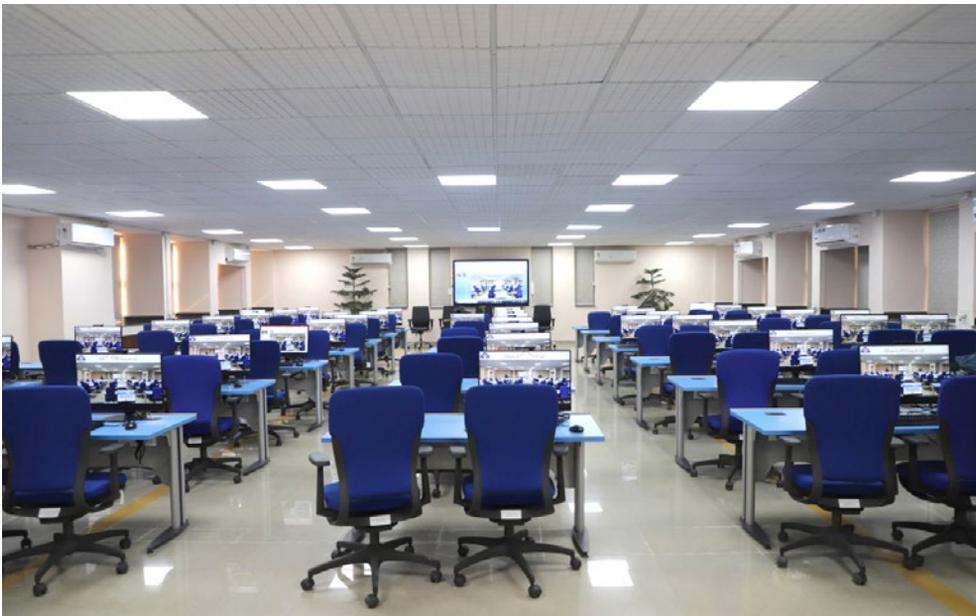
## JANUARY 2021



[www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in)

# 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** BIS, the National Standards Body of India, (the erstwhile Indian Standards Institution (ISI)) is mandated by the BIS Act 2016 which came into force on 12 October 2017 to take steps for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, conformity assessment and quality assurance of goods, articles, processes, systems and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- 1.2** BIS operates through a network of five Regional Offices and 32 Branch Offices across the country. It has eight laboratories of its own which are a part of the testing infrastructure of more than 250 private recognized labs, more than 252 Government empanelled labs. It also has a Training Institute (National Institute of Training for Standardization, Noida) which organizes training programmes for various stakeholders.
- 1.3** In view of changed technical and commercial environment a need was felt to replace the erstwhile BIS Act of 1986. Accordingly, after the assent of parliament, a new BIS Act was notified on 22nd March 2016, establishing BIS as the National Standards Body of India. The Act was brought into force with effect from 12th October, 2017. The new Act facilitates **Ease of Doing Business**, gives fillip to **Make in India** campaign and ensures availability of quality products and services to the consumers. It facilitates safeguarding consumer interests, prevention of manufacturing or import of sub-standard products, protection of the domestic industry from cheap imports, notifications of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) by the Govt. for bringing under compulsory certification any product or service which is considered necessary in the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of the environment, prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security. New Act also provides for appointing other accredited agencies in for carrying out conformity assessment of products or services under mandatory certification.



## 2. NEED FOR REFORMS

- 2.1** Indian National Strategy for Standardization (INSS) spells out the importance of standards in a very succinct manner. It says that the rapid growth of the Indian economy, its size and emerging relevance in global trade, makes it essential to establish a robust 'Quality Ecosystem' in India with a harmonized, dynamic, and mature standards framework. The growing influence of standards and technical regulations, and corresponding conformity assessment procedures on trade and commerce has been recognized worldwide through the Agreements on Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of WTO. Countries are accordingly evolving strategies to synergize standardization work with technological, social and economic development at the national level as well as for playing influencing roles in global standardization efforts.
- 2.2** INSS further says that the Bureau of Indian Standards shall remain the apex national standards body and in accordance with the mandate of the BIS ACT, 2016 continue to oversee the harmonious development of standardization activities under its own umbrella as well as through memoranda of understanding with the other SDOs.
- 2.3** Standards, conformity assessment, and technical regulations when applied are routinely encountered by all citizens, organizations, and institutions in their daily lives and operations. However, lack of awareness on their relevance leads to limited participation in standards setting and conformity assessment processes, and inability to derive their full potential and benefits as suppliers, service providers, consumers, policymakers and regulators. An objective of this strategy for standardization is to widely transmit the message to all stakeholders so that not only do they realize the opportunities but also become responsible role players through active participation. It is also necessary to create awareness of specific sectoral conformity assessment requirements imposed through national and global schemes that have an impact on domestic supply and exports.

## 3. APPROACH AND PRESENT STATUS

- 3.1.** BIS has adopted a four pronged strategy to bring in greater sufficiency and transparency in its functioning and achieve the objectives envisaged in the INSS:

- a) Improve the system with greater infusion of IT & process re-engineering;
- b) Ensure availability of adequate manpower & strengthen capacities;
- c) Ensure adequate resources for surveillance & testing;
- d) Better engagement with stakeholder including manufacturers, consumers, etc.

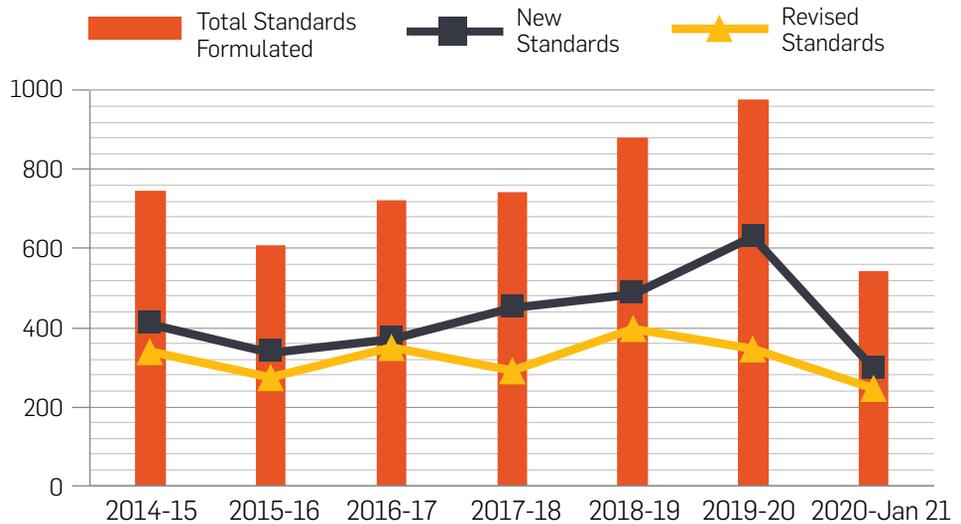
### **3.2. STANDARDIZATION**

- 3.2.1.** Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) has been developed to ensure that Standardisation activities in BIS are based on strong foundation and systems that are aligned to meet the current and anticipated standardisation needs and priorities, coordinated to remain effective and to be able to address emerging standardisation issues.



- 3.2.2. Development of Standardization portal:** The portal automates the entire workflow involved in the formulation of standards and their revision and ensures easy access to Indian Standards.
- 3.2.3.** Making Indian Standards available free of cost.
- 3.2.4** 23 Standardization Cells have been formed in Ministries of Central Government, 03 in State Governments/UTs and 31 Cells have been formed in Industry Associations so far. It is expected that all the Ministries, State Governments and Industry Associations will have these cells by March, 2021.
- 3.2.5 Focus on Action Research Project for qualitative improvement in the Standardization formulation process:** More than 300 projects have been assigned to BIS scientific officers during this year with the objective of creating working drafts in respect of Standards in the need of revision.
- 3.2.6 Greater interaction with industry associations:** Orientation programmes have been organized for industry associations and interaction with them has been made an integral part of the functioning of BIS. Branch offices have been organizing meetings with licensees and representatives of industry.
- 3.2.7 Service sector Standardization:** BIS has established a new Division Council in the field of services sector to exclusively deal with Standardization in the Services Sector, especially, the 12 Champion Services Sectors.
- 3.2.8 International Activities:** BIS is the Founder member of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and represents India in International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC). BIS has been elected to Technical Management Board (TMB) of ISO for the term 2020-22 and the Standardization Management Board (SMB) of IEC. BIS has been elected as the chair of the SARSO TMB under South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). It has so far signed 30 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) & 07 Bilateral Agreements with different countries, and represented in 672 ISO and 170 IEC Standardization Committees. It is leading 139 ISO / IEC projects in Standard formulation.
- 3.2.9** Status of formulation of standards from 2014 onwards:

## 3. APPROACH AND PRESENT STATUS



 <b>Total Standards Formulated</b>	746	609	722	742	881	978	613
 <b>New Standards</b>	407	336	371	450	484	630	343
 <b>Revised Standards</b>	339	273	351	292	397	348	270

### 3.3. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

- 3.3.1.** New Conformity Assessment Regulations were notified in 2018, replacing the earlier regulations of 1988. New regulations provided multiple types of simplified conformity assessment schemes, including self-declaration of conformity against a standard, which facilitate **Ease of Doing Business** to the manufacturers.
- 3.3.2. Development of Manakonline:** The online portal developed as a part of the integrated portal e-BIS ([www.manakonline.in](http://www.manakonline.in)). It automates the entire gambit of activities under product certification, including grant of license, inclusion, renewal and ensures real time monitoring of the status of each and every application.
- 3.3.3.** Mobile app based system for Factory & Market Surveillance has been developed to bring in efficiencies in Surveillance.
- 3.3.4. Process simplification for timely grant/renewal of licences:** Processes for grant and renewal of licenses have been simplified through a rigorous examination and strict timelines described for each stage of the processing of application. Process reengineering combined

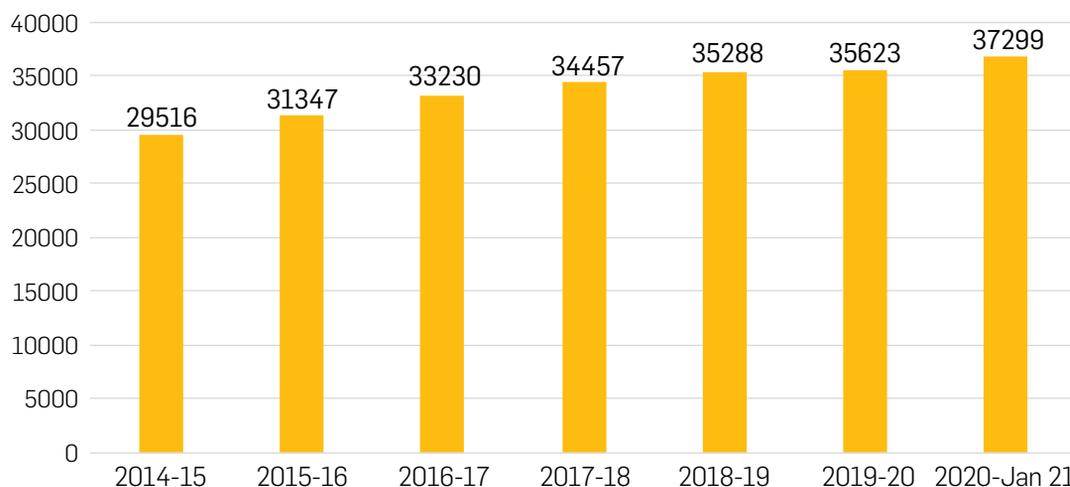
with online portal has brought significant reduction in time taken to grant/renewal license.

**3.3.5. Widening the scope of simplified procedure for grant of licences:** It has been decided to expand the coverage of products under Simplified procedure to all the products except a few which require long term testing or have special requirement this will ensure that from 1st March 2021, most of the application for licences are granted within a period of one month.

**3.3.6. Development of Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS):** has been developed to automate the entire process of the functioning of laboratories and facilitation of real time monitoring of lab operations. It is expected to address the problems of delay in issuing test reports and corruption in the progress.

Item	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-Jan 21
New Products covered under product certification scheme	23	27	15	20	20	40	53

#### OPERATIVE LICENCES (DOMESTIC)



### 3.4. COMPULSORY REGISTRATION SCHEME

Under Compulsory Registration Scheme, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has notified 63 Electronics and IT products, five products under Solar Photovoltaics Systems, Devices and Components have been notified by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has notified seven products till date. The first Registration was granted by BIS on June 12, 2013. As on January 25th, 2021, BIS has 16131 operative licences under CRS located in 61 countries including India.

## 3. APPROACH AND PRESENT STATUS

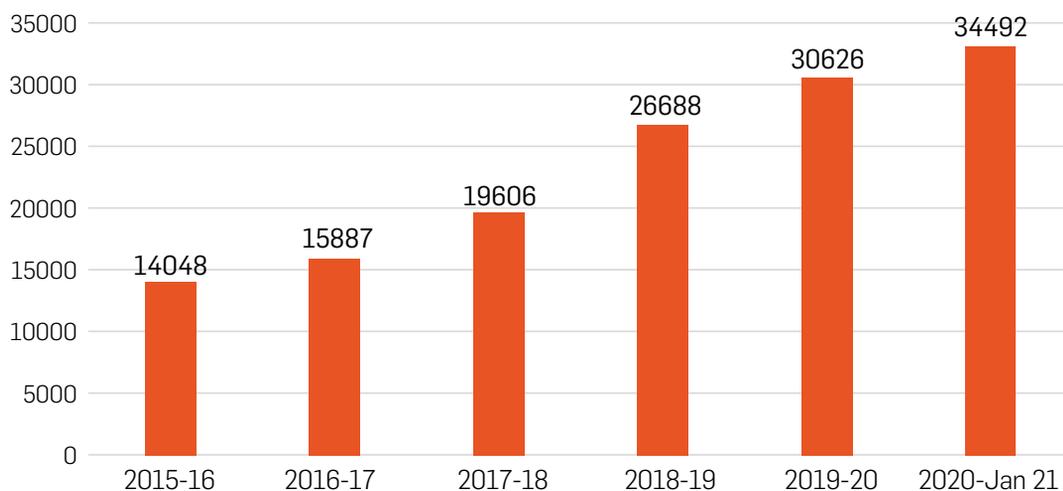
### 3.5. HALLMARKING

**3.5.1** Under the provisions of new BIS Act, for the first time BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations were notified on 14th June, 2018. Further, Hallmarking for Gold jewellery and artefacts has been made mandatory in the country w.e.f. 1st June 2021. Mandatory Hallmarking will further protect the consumers against adulteration and ensure that he doesn't get cheated while buying gold ornaments and get the purity as marked.

**3.5.2** Online system has been implemented for registration and renewal of registration for jewellers and recognition and renewal of Assaying and Hallmarking (A&H) Centres. Software is being developed to automate the work flow of Assaying & Hallmarking Centers.

Item	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-Jan 21
<b>No. of A&amp;H Centres</b>	370	454	608	797	915	945
<b>No. of articles hallmarked</b>	3.49 crore	3.16 crore	4.17 crore	4.49 crore	3.89 crore	1.38 crore

#### REGISTERED JEWELLERS



### 3.6 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

**3.6.1** BIS is also implementing 18 Management System Certification Schemes of which 10 were launched during last 5 years.

**3.6.2** Development of online portal for implementation of MSCS is in progress and expected to be completed in another 2 months.

**3.6.3** As in January, 2021, total 1236 are operative licenses under MSCS.

### **3.7 TRAINING**

**3.7.1** Training Policy was formulated for greater outreach to industry, Govt bodies, consumer group, etc.

**3.7.2** Development of online training portal completed to create awareness about the training programmes conducted by BIS.



**3.7.3** Improvement of infrastructure at NITS Noida for implementation of blended training Programmes. NITS is now equipped with a modern computer lab, conference halls and good hostel facility.

**3.7.4** Development of certificate course on Hallmarking - This is a significant initiative to address the problem of shortage of technically qualified persons for Assaying and Hallmarking centres. Training for first batch will start from 1st February 2020.

**3.7.5** Development of certificate course on Quality Control- Manufacturers, particularly those from MSME sector, face the problem of non-availability of qualified Quality Control personnel. This course is designed to address this problem. First batch of training is planned to start from March 2021.

### **3.8 CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**3.8.1** Development of Consumer Engagement Portal for registration of Consumer groups,

### 3. APPROACH AND PRESENT STATUS

planning & implementing programmes and activities and complaint handling is aimed at intensifying the engagement of BIS with Consumer groups.

- 3.8.2** Engagement of Standard Promotion Officer for better execution of industry outreach and consumer engagement activities.



### 4. FUTURE IMPACT

- 4.1** These reform measures mentioned above are expected to enhance the quality of Standard formulation process position BIS suitably to cope with the challenges thrown by a fast changing economic scenario. BIS intends to enhance its capacity further by engaging more closely with the technical and professional institutions of repute. MoUs have been signed with several of IITs, IIMs etc. and initiative have been taken to integrate standards with the curricula of the professional courses. It is also planned to have greater focus on research and deeper engagement with developing countries to have larger international footprint for Indian Standards.
- 4.2** The efficiency and transparency in conformity assessment processes will encourage industry to adopt standards and ensure their greater participation in improving the systems. Focus will be on designing industry specific training programmes to build capacity and programmes tailor-made for MSME sector.
- 4.3** It is also expected that State Govt. and local bodies will become active participants in the collective effort to create a robust quality ecosystem in the country with the strengthening of standardization cells in State Govt. Departments.
- 4.4** Quality Control Orders (QCOs) or Technical Regulations are framed by the concerned Regulators or Ministries/Departments under the provisions of BIS Act, which empowers the Central Government to make compliance to an Indian Standard or essential requirements mandatory in the country. These are framed with the objective of protection of human or animal life or health and safety or protection of the environment or prevention of deceptive trade practices or for national security. Also, issues of safeguarding consumer interests, manufacturing or import of sub-standard products, protection of the domestic industry from cheap imports and from unfair trade practices, are important considerations. So far, 77 QCOs covering 417 products have been issued by various Ministries/Departments for mandatory certification by BIS. Further, 46 QCOs covering 205 products are under consideration with various Ministries/Departments.