



BUREAU OF
INDIAN STANDARDS

CONSUMER'S DILEMMA

The consumer today is confronted with the problem of deciding as to what he should look for in a product before purchase which would meet his requirements and at the same time give him his money's worth. This is because, as a purchaser of large variety of goods in his day-to-day life, he has neither the technical knowhow nor the necessary means to judge the quality of the product.




Ordinarily, the various options available to the consumer for selecting the products of the right quality could be any of the following :

- a) Making choice on the basis of popularity of the brand name(s), or
- b) Buying a relatively expensive product under the mistaken notion 'that higher price means better quality', or
- c) Selecting on the basis of manufacturers' own claims/declarations which at times may not be truly reflected in the product.



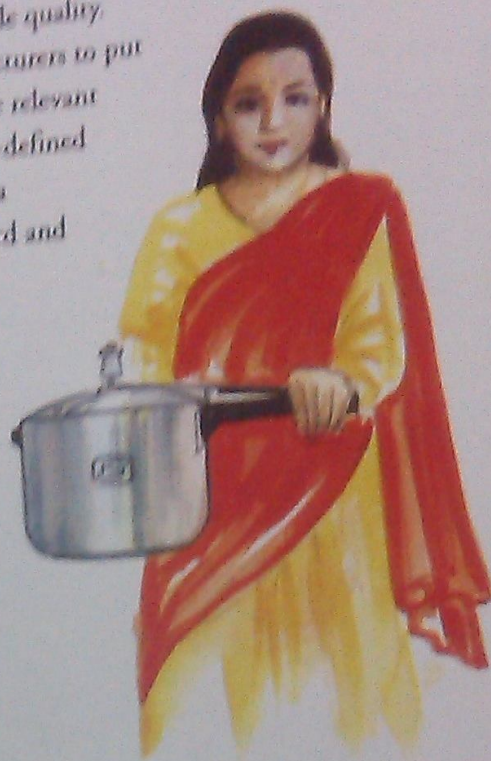
There are inherent risks involved in the above options and by exercising any of these options, the consumer may not be getting the product of the desired quality and, therefore, the 'Certification Mark' comes to his rescue.

STANDARD MARK – A RELIABLE THIRD PARTY ASSURANCE OF QUALITY

One of the various Certification Marks with which products are available in the market is the familiar  called the Standard Mark. The presence of  conveys that the product so marked has been tested by the manufacturer for its conformity to the relevant Indian Standard. The  is, therefore, the tool which provides confidence to the consumer for making choice from the large variety of products available in the market.

BIS CERTIFICATION MARK SCHEME

The Bureau of Indian Standards, formerly, the Indian Standards Institution, launched a Certification Mark Scheme in 1955 primarily to help the industry to upgrade the quality of the products manufactured and in the long run enable the consumers in identifying products of acceptable quality. Under the Scheme, the Bureau grants licences to desirous manufacturers to put the Standard Mark on the products whose quality conforms to the relevant Indian Standards and which are produced and tested under a well-defined Quality Control System. The Scheme was primarily conceived as a Voluntary Scheme, leaving it to the manufacturers to come forward and obtain a licence from BIS.




WHAT IS MANDATORY CERTIFICATION

In the socio-economic conditions prevailing in our country — with the low level of awareness among the consumers as to what is the right quality that they must insist on, the Government, committed as it has been to the welfare of consumers, decided to bring certain categories of products under compulsory certification, in order to regulate their quality in the market. The various considerations that weighed with the Government arose from aspects, such as :

- a) Prevention of Health Hazards,
- b) Prevention of Adulteration,
- c) Safety,
- d) Energy Conservation, and
- e) Quality Improvement in Items of Mass Consumption.



To illustrate, some of the products are Food Colours & Additives, Milk Powder & Infant Milk Food, LPG Cylinders, Oil Pressure Stoves, Electrical Appliances & Accessories, Electric Lamps, Cement, Miners' Safety Boots and Shoes, etc.

The manufacturers of all such notified products have to obtain a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards and their entire production must necessarily conform to the relevant Indian Standards. The products so notified cannot be sold unless they carry the Standard Mark of BIS, that is the 

MECHANISM FOR MANDATORY CERTIFICATION

The Government has used provisions under various legislations for bringing products under the ambit of compulsory certification. These include the *Essential Commodities Act*, *Prevention of Food Adulteration Act*, *Mines Act*, *Gas Cylinder Rules*, etc.

With the enactment of the *Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986* and establishment of Bureau of Indian Standards as a statutory body, a provision has been made in the Act under Section 14 for notifying any article or process of any scheduled industry under Mandatory certification. Dry batteries are an example of Mandatory certification under Bureau of Indian Standards Act.

OPERATION OF CERTIFICATION MARK SCHEME

Before granting a licence under the Certification Mark Scheme, the Bureau satisfies itself that the firm is capable of producing goods conforming to the relevant Indian Standards on a continuous basis in accordance with a well-defined Scheme of Testing and Inspection and has the required testing and inspection facilities and personnel.


The licence is initially granted for one year. Decision regarding renewal of the licence is taken based on the performance of the licensee which is adjudged by way of surprise inspections, and drawal of samples from the factory as well as market for testing.

For catering to the growing certification activity in various parts of the country and ensuring effective implementation of the Scheme, BIS has set up a network of Regional, Branch and Inspection offices spread throughout the country. For the purpose of testing of products for preliminary assessment and also for periodic checking, laboratories have also been set up.

REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES

Whenever a consumer is not satisfied with the quality of the ISI marked product, he may refer a complaint to BIS giving relevant details, such as source and date of purchase, nature of complaint, etc. Under the Certification Mark Scheme, provision exists for arranging redressal for complaints which are established. Simultaneously, at the manufacturer's end, corrective actions are ensured to be taken for eliminating such defects in future.

A WORD OF CAUTION

Under the BIS Certification Mark Scheme, the use of the Standard Mark, that is the  on the product is the sole indication of Certification. Products carrying legends, such as, 'conforming to ISS' or 'as per ISI specification' are not covered under the Scheme and are part of attempts by unscrupulous manufacturers to mislead the consumers. Consumers are, therefore, advised to beware of such legends, since these practices violates Section 12 of BIS Act 1986.

PRODUCTS UNDER COMPULSORY CERTIFICATION

131 items have been brought under Mandatory certification. A list of such items along with their corresponding Indian Standard number is given in Annexure 1.

ANNEXURE 1

LIST OF ITEMS UNDER MANDATORY CERTIFICATION

(AS ON 31 DEC. 1998)

Sl No.	Parent Act, Rules, Regulations	Title of the Q.C. Order	Q.C. Order/Notification No. & Date	IS No.	Product	Implementing Authority
1.	Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954	Prevention of Food Adulteration (3rd Amendment) Rules, 1984	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Health, Notification G.S.R. No. 764 (E) dated 15 Nov 1984	1694	Tartrazine, food grade	Food (Health) Authority of the States
				1695	Sunset yellow FCF, food grade	
				1697	Erythrosine, food grade	
				1698	Indigo carmine, food grade	
				2558	Iron-ear 4B, food grade	
				2923	Carminine, food grade	
				5346	Synthetic food colour preparation and mixture	
				6022	Fast green FCF, food grade	
				6406	Bright blue FCF, food grade	
				3827	Riboflavin	
				3841	Riboflavin	
				4446 (Pt 1)	Chlorophyll (Mg complex)	
				4446 (Pt 2)	Chlorophyll (Cu complex)	
				6386	Beta-apo-8-carotenol, food grade	
				6405	Canthaxanthine, food grade	
				6797	Methyl ester of beta-apo-8-carotenol acid	
				7260	Ethyl ester of beta-apo-8-carotenol acid, food grade	
2.	Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954	Prevention of Food Adulteration (4th Amendment) Rules, 1983	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Health, Notification G.S.R. No. 283 (E) dated 26 March 1983	2557	Annatto colour for food products	Food (Health) Authority of the States
				4447	Sodium benzoate, food grade	
				4448	Benzoic acid, food grade	
				4467 (Pt 1)	Caramel (plain)	
				4467 (Pt 2)	Caramel (ammonia process)	
				4467 (Pt 3)	Caramel (ammonia sulphite process)	
				4750	Sorbitol, food grade	
				4751	Potassium meta-bisulphite, food grade	
				4752	Sodium metabisulphite, food grade	
				4818	Sorbic acid, food grade	
				5191	Sodium alginate, food grade	
				5306	Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, food grade	
				5342	Ascorbic acid, food grade	
				5343	Butylated hydroxy-anisole, food grade	
				5707	Agar, food grade	
				5719	Gelatin, food grade	
				6030	Sodium propionate, food grade	

Sl No.	Parent Act, Rules, Regulations	Title of the Q.C. Order	Q.C. Order/Notification No. & Date	IS No.	Product	Implementing Authority
3.	Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954	Prevention of Food Adulteration (6th Amendment) Rules, 1988	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Health, Notification G.S.R. No. 437 (E) dated 8 April 1988	10563	Mineral oil, food grade	Food (Health) Authority of the States
4.	Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954	Prevention of Food Adulteration (1st Amendment) Rules, 1979	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Health, Notification G.S.R. No. 55(3) dated 31 Jan 1979	8356	Titanium dioxide, food grade	Food (Health) Authority of the States
5.	Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954	Prevention of Food Adulteration (3rd Amendment) Rules, 1981	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Health, Notification G.S.R. No. 290 (E) dated 13 Apr 1981	9971	OL Lactic acid, food grade	Food (Health) Authority of the States
6.	Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954	Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Rules, 1985	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Health, Notification G.S.R. No. 550 (E) dated 4 July 1985	1165 1166	Milk powder Condensed milk	Food (Health) Authority of the States
	Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954	Prevention of Food Adulteration (5th Amendment) Rules, 1991	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Health, Notification G.S.R. No. 257 (E) dated 3 May 1991	1547 1656 11156	Infant milk foods Milk-cereal base weaning foods Infant formulae	Food (Health) Authority of the States
	Essential Commodities Act, 1955	Cement Quality Control Order, 1995	Ministry of Industry, Dept. of Industrial Policy and Promotion S.O. No. 641(E) dated 19 Apr 1995	269 455 1489 1489 1489 1489 (Pt 1) (Pt 2) 3466 6452	33 Grade ordinary Portland cement Portland slag cement Portland pozzolana cement - Flyash based Portland pozzolana cement - Calcined clay based Masonry cement High alumina cement for structural use	Officers appointed by State Govt./Central Govt./BIS in terms of Cl. 2 (a) of the Order

Sl No.	Parent Act, Rules, Regulations	Title of the Q.C. Order	Q.C. Order/Notification No. & Date	IS No.	Product	Implementing Authority
9.	Essential Commodities Act, 1955	Mild Steel Tubes (excluding seamless tube & tubes according to API Specification) (Q.C.) Order, 1978 and Amendment Order, 1983	Min. of Industries (Dept. of Heavy Inds.) G.S.R. No. 374(E) dated 18 July 1978 and G.S.R. No. 462(E) dated 1 June 1983	1161 1239 (Pt 1)	Steel tubes for State Govt. structural purposes Mild steel tubes, tubular products and other wrought steel fittings Part 1 Mild steel tubes	State Govt.
10.	Essential Commodities Act, 1955	Oil Pressure Stove (Q.C.) Order, 1987	Min. of Industry, Dept. of Indl. Dev. G.S.R. 495(E) dated 14 May 1987	1342 2787	Oil pressure stoves Multi-burner oil pressure stoves	State Govt.
11.	Essential Commodities Act, 1955	General Service Electric Lamps (Q.C.) Order, 1989	Min. of Industry (Dept. of Ind. Dev.) G.S.R. 463(E) dated 24 April 1989	10109 418	Oil pressure stove, offset burner type Tungsten filament general service electric lamps (up to 100 W)	Officers appointed by State Govt./Central Govt./BIS in terms of Cl. 2(a) of the Order
12.	Essential Commodities Act, 1955	Electric Wires, Cables, Appliances & Accessories (Q.C.) Order, 1993	Min. of Industry (Dept. of Ind. Dev.) G.S.R. 83 (E) dated 24 Feb 1993	302 (Pt 2) Sec 3 302 (Pt 2) Sec 30 302 (Pt 2) Sec 201 302 (Pt 2) Sec 202 1293 3854 4949	Safety of household and similar electrical appliances — Electric iron Safety of household and similar electrical appliances — Electric radiators Safety of household and similar electrical appliances — Electric immersion water heater Safety of household and similar electrical appliances — Electric stove 3 Pin plugs and socket outlets Switches for domestic and similar purposes 2 Amp switches for electric and similar purposes	Officers appointed by State Govt./Central Govt./BIS in terms of Cl. 2(a) of the Order

Sl. No.	Parent Act, Rules Regulations	Title of the Q.C. Order	Q.C. Order/Notification No. & Date	IS No.	Product	Implementing Authority
13		Public Notice for Certification Marking for Steel and Steel Product	Min. of Steel and Heavy Engg. Notification No. SC(CO-244)/63-11 dated 4 Jan 1985 and SC(CO-244)/65-IV dated 26 Mar 1971	277	Galvanized steel sheets (plain and corrugated)	Iron & Steel Controller of India
				279	Galvanized steel wire for telegraph and telephone purposes	
				280	Mild steel wire for general engineering purposes	
				432	Mild steel and medium tensile steel bars	
				(P-1)		
				432	Mild steel and medium tensile steel bars and hard-drawn steel	
				(P-2)		
				513	wire for concrete reinforcement	
				1029	Cold rolled carbon steel sheets	
				1079	Hot rolled steel strips (baling)	
				1148	Hot rolled carbon steel sheet and strip	
					Hot rolled steel river bars (up to 40 mm diameter) for structural purposes	
				1149	High tensile steel river bars for structural purposes	
				1786	High strength deformed steel bars and wires for concrete reinforcement	
				1875	Carbon steel billets, blooms, slabs and bars for forgings	
				1977	Structural steel (ordinary quality)	
				1990	Steel rivet and staybars for boilers	
				2002	Steel plates for pressure vessels for intermediate and high temperature service including boilers	
				2062	Weldable structural steel	
				2830	Carbon steel billets, blooms and slab for re-rolling into structural steel (standard quality)	
				2831	Carbon steel billets, blooms and slab for re-rolling into structural steel (ordinary quality)	
				2879	Mild steel for metal for welding electrode core wire	
				3502	Steel chequered plates	
				3748	Tool and die steels	
				3930	Plane and induction hardening steels	
				4368	Alloy steel billets, blooms and slab for forging for general engineering purposes	
				4397	Cold rolled carbon steel strips for ball and roller bearing cages	
				4398	Carbon-chromium steel for the manufacture of balls, rollers and bearing races	
				4430	Mould steels	

Sl No.	Parent Act, Rules, Regulations	Title of the Q.C. Order	Q.C. Order/Notification No. & Date	IS No.	Product	Implementing Authority
14.	Regulation 191 of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and Regulation 182 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961	Supply and purchase of approved safety footwear for use in mines	Directorate General of Mines Safety, D.G.M.S. (Approval) Circular No. 5 dated 5 March 1976	1989 (Pt I)	Leather safety boots and shoes for miners	Director General of Mines Safety, Chief Inspector of Mines
15.	Regulation 157 (4) of Coal Mines Regulations	Certification of miner's cap lamp batteries	Directorate General of Mines Safety, Letter No. 59817 (6) dated 19 Dec 1968	2512	Miners' cap lamp batteries (lead acid type)	Director General of Mines Safety, Chief Inspector of Mines
16.	Regulation 157 (4) of Coal Mines Regulations	Certification of winding ropes used in mines	Chief Inspector of Mines C.I.M. Circular No. 22 of 1966 dated 23.4.1966	1855	Standard steel wire ropes for winding and man-riding haulages in mines	Director General of Mines Safety, Chief Inspector of Mines
17.	Regulation 157 (4) of Coal Mines Regulations	-	-	2148	Flameproof enclosures of electrical apparatus	Director General of Mines Safety, Chief Inspector of Mines
18.	Regulation 157 (4) of Coal Mines Regulations	-	-	2925	Industrial safety helmets	Director General of Mines Safety, Chief Inspector of Mines
19.	Indian Explosives Act, 1884	Gas Cylinder Rules, 1981	Min. of Industry (Dept. of Ind. Development) G.S.R. No. 77(D) dated 24 Feb 1981	3196 (Pt I) 3196 (Pt 2) 3234 3745	Welded low carbon steel gas cylinder exceeding 5 litre water capacity for low pressure liquefiable gases; Part 1 Cylinders for liquefied petroleum gases (LPG) Welded low carbon steel gas cylinder exceeding 5 litre water capacity for low pressure liquefiable gases; Part 2 Cylinders for liquefiable gases other than LPG Valve fittings for compressed gas cylinder excluding liquefied petroleum gas cylinders Valve type valve connections for small medical gas cylinders	Controller of Explosives, D.M.s, Magistrates, subordinate to D.M.s, Commissioners of Police & all Police Officers

Sl. No.	Parent Act/Rules/Regulations	Title of the Q.C. Order	Q.C. Order/Notification No. & Date	IS No.	Product	Implementing Authority
				7602	Welded low carbon steel gas cylinders for low pressure liquefiable gases not exceeding 5 litre water capacity	
				7685	Seamless steel cylinders for permanent and high pressure liquefiable gases	
				7602	Valve fittings for gas cylinder valves for use with breathing apparatus	
				7612	Welded and seamless steel dissolved acetylene gas cylinders	
				7680	Welded low carbon steel gas cylinders for ammonia	
				7681	Welded low carbon steel gas cylinders for chlorine gas	
				7682	Welded low carbon steel gas cylinders for methyl bromide gas	
				8737	Valve fittings for use with liquefied petroleum gas cylinders of more than 5 litre water capacity / Pt 2	
				8776	Valve fittings for newly manufactured LPG cylinders	
					Valve fittings for use with liquefied petroleum gas cylinder up to and including 5 litre water capacity	
20.	Essential Commodities Act, 1955	Solvent Extracted Oil, De-oiled Meal & Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967	Dept. of Civil Supplies, Directorate of Vanaspuri	3470	Hexane, food grade	Vegetable Oil Products Controller of India
21.	Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986	Multipurpose Dry Batteries (Q.C.) Order, 1987	Dept. of Civil Supplies, S.O. 516 (E) dated 25 May 1987	8144	Multipurpose dry batteries	Bureau of Indian Standards
22.	Atomic Energy Regulation Board	Diagnostic Medical X-Ray Equipment	AERB/443/39 MDX/3509/94 Oct 94	7620 (Pt 1)	Diagnostic Medical X-Ray Equipment	

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