

BIS Taking Forward PM's Vision of 'Zero Defect Zero Effect': Piyush Goyal

India Vows to Boost Quality Ecosystem as BIS Turns 77

BIS and DPIIT Organize Dialogue on Strengthening Quality Ecosystem in India

"Dialogue for Strengthening Quality Eco-system in India on the occasion of BIS Foundation Day"

06 January, New Delhi: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) jointly organised the 'Dialogue for Strengthening Quality Ecosystem in India' as the former turned 77 on 06.01.2024.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal, and Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, graced the event. Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, DG, BIS, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Shantmanu, Additional Secretary, DoCA, and Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT were also present during the event. The event also marked the presence of eminent dignitaries from the government and corporate sector.

During his presidential address Shri Goyal mentioned that the efforts to strengthen the quality ecosystem have been accelerated and BIS has played a pivotal role. He also mentioned that it was commendable efforts of DPIIT that a number of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) were issued that have further brought a wide range of consumer goods under the umbrella of mandatory BIS certification. "Standards play an instrumental role in guaranteeing quality across sectors. They serve as benchmarks, guiding us toward excellence and uniformity" added the Hon'ble Minister.

"Quality forms the backbone of any successful enterprise. It is the bedrock upon which trust, reliability, and progress are built. Ensuring quality isn't just a choice; it's a responsibility we owe to our citizens, industries, and the market. The Government of India under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi is committed to ensuring that every citizen of India has access to safe, reliable, and high-quality products and services. "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" enunciated by Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, forms the cornerstone of India's national development agenda. I can see that BIS has brought together a wide range of participants on a common platform - government officials, regulatory bodies standards developers, accreditation bodies, representatives from industry, analysts and scholars from the research and academic communities and this would enable sharing of experience and exchange of views resulting into some key recommendations to address the challenges and opportunities in this sphere" the Hon'ble Minister Shri Goyal further added.

The Hon'ble MoS Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey congratulated BIS on completing 77 years in service to the nation. He also lauded the efforts of scientists and staff for their efforts for strengthening the quality ecosystem in the country. Shri Choubey further added that the primary objective of QCOs is to ensure safety of consumers and guarantee quality of goods and services. The Hon'ble MoS called for coming together to ensure the extraordinary achievements of the nation are projected at global level during this *Amrit Kaal*.

The Director General BIS, Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari delivered the welcome address and apprised the gathering about the notable milestones achieved by BIS during the 77 years since its foundation. While tracing the journey he also mentioned, "It's indeed a momentous occasion to celebrate the rich history and achievements of BIS since its inception as the Indian Standardization Institution on 6 January 1947. The journey from Standard Body of India under the BIS Act 2016, reflects the organization's commitment to promoting standardization, quality control, and simplification in industry and commerce."

Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT, shared that India has secured a spot in the top 10 of the Global Quality Infrastructure Index 2023 for overall Quality infrastructure. Committed to further enhancing our position by fortifying quality eco-system.

The event also witnessed the release of BIS films on critical consumer interest subjects aimed to boost public awareness. BIS also launched its latest Special Publication, SP 73:2023, titled 'Standardized Development and Building Regulations, 2023'. These regulations align with the NBC, promoting nationwide uniformity while addressing regional/local needs.

The participants and delegates lauded the efforts of the organisers for creating an effective platform and dialogue on strengthening the quality ecosystem in India. It was noted that the event succeeded in its objectives to create awareness about adherence to Quality Standards with special emphasis on MSMEs and to guide the Industry on the BIS process for conformity assessment. The event also sensitised the industry on testing of samples from BIS labs or BIS-recognised labs and to coordinate with BIS, Testing Labs, accreditation agency and other stakeholders.

The following were among the key focal points of the discussions during the event:

- (a) DPIIT, as per its mandate, has issued various QCOs under the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986/2016, e.g. Cement, LPG Gas Stoves, Pressure Cooker, Pipes and tubes, ACs, Refrigerators, Safety Glass, etc.
- (b) Implementation of QCOs can only be achieved through creating awareness among the Industry and other stakeholders about its importance and various steps for effective implementation

(c) Accordingly, DPIIT, in association with BIS, organised the **“Dialogue for Strengthening Quality Eco-system in India on the occasion of BIS Foundation Day ”** on 06th January 2024 at Bharat Mandapam to commemorate BIS's 77th year in Service to the Nation.

(d) The grand event witnessed the gathering of about 900 delegates, including experts from diverse fields related to standardisation, policymakers, industry professionals, consumer groups, academicians, etc. The event was also graced by the representatives of various Industries, their associations, leading manufacturers, traders, special invitees and representatives from Ministries like C&I, DPIIT, DoCA, etc.

(e) The detailed programme schedule was as follows:

1000-1105 h: Inaugural Session

1130-1330 h: Strengthening Ecosystem in India through QCOs

- o In this technical session, presentations on the Industry perspective on QCOs for Toys, Refrigeration & air conditioning and Household Electrical Appliances were made by various Industry Associations. BIS & DPIIT also made presentations on QCOs and their implementation by the Industry.

1430-1630 h: Strengthening Quality Ecosystem in India through Standardization in the Emerging Fields

- o In this technical session, presentations on Standardization in the field of Artificial Intelligence & Cyber Security and e-mobility were made by experts from industries.

Quality Control Orders (QCOs)

The focus of the present Government is on consumer safety and stopping the import of substandard products into the country. In this regard, the Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve the quality of products and to ensure the availability of quality products to consumers. Accordingly, 157 QCOs covering 673 products have been notified for compulsory BIS certification by the respective line Ministries/Departments of the Government. The role of QCOs becomes pivotal in achieving the aim of ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat’ considering its twin objectives of developing a robust quality ecosystem in the country and providing consumers with quality goods meeting the global benchmark. The implementation of Indian Standards at the National level has been accorded a top priority by the Government.

Through the issuance of QCOs, the notified products shall conform to the requirements of the relevant Indian Standard and the manufacturers of these products have to compulsorily obtain certification from BIS. After the date of implementation of the QCO, no person shall manufacture, import, distribute, sell, hire, lease, store or exhibit for sale any product(s) covered under the QCO without a Standard Mark. As the QCOs are equally applicable to Indian

manufacturers as well as foreign manufacturers, Indian consumers are assured of the quality of such products manufactured in India as well as imported to the country.

This is evident from the fact that till May 2014, only 14 QCOs covering 106 products were notified for compulsory BIS certification and implementation of Indian Standards. After May 2014, to date, 143 QCOs covering 567 products have been notified for compulsory BIS certification and implementation of Indian Standards. Some of the recent examples are Toys (both electric and non-electric), Helmets for two-wheeler riders, Domestic appliances like Air-conditioners, Refrigerators, Domestic Cooker, LPG Gas stoves, Safety Glass (Architectural, Building and General use) and safety Glass (Road Transport), Footwear, Wheel Rim, Wood Based Products, Cookware & Utensils, Ceiling Fans, Hinges, Insulated Flask, Portable Water Bottles etc.

Based on the discussion between concerned Ministries/Departments and BIS, more products have been identified for notifying them under QCOs and mandating compulsory certification of BIS and implementation of Indian Standards. All the concerned Ministries/Departments (including BIS) are working in close coordination and actively interacting with the Industry, Associations and other stakeholders. The upcoming QCOs are at various stages of processing, and some of the draft QCOs have been hosted on WTO as well by the concerned Ministries/Departments.