

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
161st Meeting of the Executive Committee

PROCEEDINGS

Day and Date : Friday, 07 March 2025

Venue : Bureau of Indian Standards,
DG's Committee Room,
Manak Bhavan, 9, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi - 110002

PRESENT:

Chairman : 1. Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, DG, BIS

Members (Present) : 2. Shri Bharat Khera, Additional Secretary,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public
Distribution

3. Dr. Anant Sharma, National President;
Consumer Confederation of India (CCI);

4. * Prof. Venugopal Achanta, Director, NPL;

5. * Prof. Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Gandhinagar;

Representatives : 1. * Smt. Asha Nangia, Scientist G and Group
Coordinator, MEITY;

2. * Dr. B. K. Yadav, MEITY;

3. * Shri Shailendra Kumar, Under Secretary, GM IP
Invest UP Investment Promotion Anuruddha
Kshatriya and Shri Abhishek, Secretary,
Infrastructure and Industrial Development
Department Government of UP (IIDUP);

4. * Dheeraj Kumar Meena, US and Shri Mohammad
Isharar Ali, Director, DPIIT;

5. * Uttam Kumar, Deputy Director, IEEMA;

6. * Dr. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director, BEE;

**Members (Leave of
Absence)** : 1. Shri. V. Arun Roy, IAS, Secretary, Industries
Department, Chennai, Government of Tamil
Nadu;

2. Prof. Devendra Jalihal, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati;
3. ASFA, DoCA

***BIS Officers
in Attendance***

- :
1. Shri H.J.S. Pasricha, DDG (Certification);
 2. Shri Rajeev Sharma, DDG (Standardization-I);
 3. Shri Sanjay Pant, DDG (Standardization-II);
 4. Smt. Chitra Gupta, DDG (Hallmarking);
 5. Smt. Nishat S. Haque, DDG (Lab);
 6. Lt Col (Retd.) Kumar Shantanu, DDG (Administration);
 7. Shri Vinod Kumar, DDG (Finance);
 8. Shri A Chatterjee, Head (NITS);
 9. Shri. Deepak Aggarwal, Head (SCMD);
 10. Shri Rajneesh Khosla, Head (IR & TISD);
 11. Ms. Alka, Secretary (BIS)

** Through video conference*

Item 1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The 161st meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of BIS was held on 07 March 2025 to discuss the Agenda circulated to the members on 04 Mar 2025.

Item 2. PRESENTATION ON IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TAKEN BY BIS SINCE LAST EC MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024

- 2.1** DG, BIS welcomed the members. A presentation on activities of BIS, highlighting the important initiatives and achievements by BIS in recent past was made by the activity heads of BIS.

The presentation is enclosed as **Annexure 2A**.

Item 3. CONFIRMATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 160th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) OF BIS HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024

- 3.1** There being no comments from the members, EC confirmed the proceedings of the 160th meeting of the EC held on 19 November 2024 as given as **Annexure 3A** (enclosed) of the agenda with an observation that at Serial No. 6, Item -10, the term 'recommended' be replaced by 'proffered'.

Item 4. ACTION TAKEN REPORT (ATR) ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN/ACTIONABLE POINTS OF THE 160th MEETING OF EC HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024

- 4.1** EC noted the Action Taken Report of the 160th meeting of EC, held on 19 November 2024 as given in **Annexure 4A** (enclosed) of the agenda.

AGENDA(S) FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Item 5 CONSTITUTION OF ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTION UPTO THE LEVEL OF SCIENTIST-E

Background

The Clause 14 (3) (a) of Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019 states the following regarding constitution of the Assessment Committee:

“14 (3) (a) An Assessment Committee for promotion upto the level of Scientist-E, shall be constituted by the Executive Committee, comprising the following members, namely:

(i) Two officers of Bureau not below level of Scientist-F, senior among whom shall be the Chairpersons; and

(ii) Three experts from outside not below the rank of Scientist-F

Provided that one member shall belong to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes category, in case of selection of person from these categories.”

As per the above provision of Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019, the Director General, BIS has nominated the following Officers from BIS/External Organization as Member of the Assessment Committee:

a) Shri Chandan Bahl, Scientist-G & DDG (IR) : Chairperson

b) Shri R. K. Kain, Scientist-F & Head (CSMD): Representative from SC/ST Category

c) Three Experts from Outside not below rank of Scientist-F from the following Organizations:

(i) National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)

(ii) Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

(iii) Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

In view of above, Executive Committee was requested to consider and approve the constitution of the Assessment Committee for the promotion process upto level of Scientist-E, as proposed above.

Proposal made to the EC

The Executive Committee was requested to consider and approve.

Decision of the EC

EC approved.

Item 6 ENGAGEMENT OF 02-OFFICE RUNNERS FOR OFFICE OF HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF BUREAU & HON'BLE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Background

Office of the Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs vide its email dated 06.01.2025 asked BIS for engaging 02-Office Runners (w.e.f 01.12.2024) in the Office of Hon'ble President of BIS & Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution at a salary of Rs. 28,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- per month.

As per Sl. no. 46 of Schedule of Bureau of Indian Standards (Powers and Duties of Director General) Regulations, 2018, to appoint persons on contract or on tenure basis to meet the exigencies of work the DG:BIS has the full power with prior approval of Central Government.

The said matter was discussed between DDGA & Shri Prithviraj, APS on 06.01.2025 wherein the APS requested for "Two Office-Runners" for the Office of Hon'ble President of BIS & Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

The matter was submitted to DG:BIS wherein considering it as a requirement of Hon'ble President of BIS & Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, it was agreed for engagement and necessary action regarding engagement through outsourced agency was initiated.

However, it was 'agreed' with the consideration that ratification of DoCA is to be obtained in it and to inform the EC in the next meeting.

BIS vide letter reference no. Estt/C-10190 dated 31.01.2025 requested DoCA to convey their approval/ratification in the above stated matter.

It was submitted for information of EC.

Proposal made to the EC

The agenda item was submitted for information of the Executive Committee.

Decision of the EC

EC noted.

Item 7 PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION IN THE LABORATORY INTERNSHIP SCHEME” FOR APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) OF BIS

Background

The agenda item “**Proposal for Modification in the Laboratory Internship Scheme**” for the approval of EC members by circulation, was received from LPPD on 08-01-2025 and circulated to EC members on 09-01-2025 with the request to approve the proposal by 16-01-2025.

It was also stated in the e-mail that in case no reply is received by the said date, we may be permitted to presume the approval of the agenda item by the EC member. Following members have communicated their approval of the agenda item:

- i. DG, BIS;
- ii. Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, DNPL;

(Received with comments: "I support the proposal.")

- iii. Shri Ashok Kumar, DDG, BEE;

(Received with the comments, "It is to inform on behalf of the DG, BEE that BEE endorses this proposal as this is not only going to help BIS but also in turn help students in gaining experience in gap analysis of testing facilities, development of test methods, measurement uncertainty analysis, method verifications and maintenance of technical records at premier national institution.")

Approval of other members was assumed as no comment/query was received from the rest of the members. Hence, the agenda item got approved by the Executive Committee (EC) of BIS.

It was submitted for kind information of EC.

Proposal made to the EC

The agenda item was submitted for information of the Executive Committee.

Decision of the EC

EC noted.

Item 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Following points were deliberated by the committee while discussing the update on BIS activities:

8.1 Chairman of the meeting informed the Committee about two new projects for awareness that are being undertaken by BIS:

1. Newsletter of BIS is being sent to the stakeholders on monthly basis
2. Weekly News Bulletin highlighting the key updates regarding BIS activities is soon to be launched.

8.2 Committee reminded that the approval from Department of Expenditure for purchase via global tender is for the limited period i.e. till 1st week of April 2025 after which, the approval will be invalid. Therefore, the procurement of the remaining 17 equipment should be expedited and completed by 31 March 2025. Queries by the bidders, therefore, be addressed promptly and if required, the approval on extension should be taken timely, from the Department of Expenditure.

8.3 Committee suggested that hallmarking of silver ornaments/artefacts and gold bullions may be expedited.

DDG Hallmarking informed that the discussion regarding hallmarking of gold bullion has been held in the stakeholders' meeting and report will be submitted shortly.

For the silver artefacts, it was explained by DDG Hallmarking that BIS is on the job, however, the project is facing certain constraints like testing of bulky items in XRF machines etc. and solutions to the same are being examined. Committee suggested that ways of non-destructive testing be explored and it was suggested that BIS can run hackathon with some IITs and figure out the solution.

8.4 Chairman informed that the engagement with the Ambassadors and High-Commissioners was successful as more than 100 Ambassadors attended the webinar and more that 30 Ambassadors from the developing countries attended the physical event. BIS is sensitizing them regarding the BIS standards, QCOs, National Building Code and National Electrical Code. The initiatives were well appreciated by the committee.

8.5 Representative from BEE requested that if the data of BIS, related to testing at labs can be shared with BEE, it will help BEE significantly. Committee found the point valid and directed BIS to explore the means of achieving it.

Committee suggested that a meeting be held between BIS and BEE.

8.6 Representative from IEEMA informed that in case of Solar DC Cables, the QCOs are not being complied with in the tenders and BIS may provide help in this regard by means of enhancing the sensitization and awareness.

Item 9 CONTRACTUAL MANPOWER IN BIS TESTING LABORATORIES

Background

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) operates under the authority of the BIS Act 2016. Section 13 (4) of this Act states: “The Bureau may establish, maintain or recognize testing laboratories for the purposes of conformity assessment and quality assurance and for such other purposes as may be required for carrying out its functions.”

In accordance with this mandate, BIS has established its own laboratories at ten locations across India, namely Sahibabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Mohali, Bengaluru, Patna, Guwahati, Hyderabad, and Jammu. These laboratories collectively provide testing facilities for 911 products to support BIS's Certification Schemes.

As per the BIS (Recruitment to Laboratory Technical Posts) Regulations, 2019, there are 180 sanctioned posts for testing personnel and 59 sanctioned posts for technicians. Currently, 150 permanent testing personnel (including 60 Laboratory Officers and 90 Technical Assistants) and 25 permanent technicians (comprising 2 Senior Master Technicians, 13 Master Technicians, and 12 Senior Technicians) are actively working in BIS laboratories and other departments. The recruitment for the vacant posts is regularly being carried out and currently, BIS is in the process of engagement of 27 number of Technical Assistants, 18 number of Senior Technicians and 01 number of Technician through Direct recruitment. However, the complete manpower as per the sanctioned strength is still not sufficient to meet the ongoing demand for testing. Additionally, some of the existing permanent manpower is also deputed to various roles across other BIS departments and offices.

To meet the growing demand for testing, BIS engaged 166 testing personnel on contractual basis in all BIS labs with the approval of EC in its 146th meeting held on 14-07-2020 and 81 technicians on a contractual basis with the approval of EC in its 150th meeting held on 25-10-2021. Out of these 81 no. of technicians, 31 no. were engaged against the existing vacancy in the permanent manpower sanctioned to BIS through BIS (Recruitment to Laboratory Technical Posts) Regulations, 2019 and 50 no. were engaged through short term contract.

This additional manpower has significantly increased the testing output, with BIS laboratories consistently testing more than 6500 samples per month. In 2023-24, BIS tested 1,19,706 samples in its own labs compared to 23,836 samples in 2019-20 and the notional income generated was Rs. 71.19 Cr. in 2023-24 as compared to Rs. 26.15 Cr. in 2019-20.

Given the critical role of BIS laboratories in supporting the Conformity Assessment Schemes and the growing demand for testing due to new Quality Control Orders (QCOs), it is essential to continue and expand the hired manpower. This will ensure that BIS can maintain its high standards of quality assurance and conformity assessment, meet the increasing demand for product testing, and support the establishment of new and specialized testing facilities across India.

Therefore, it is proposed to continue the current contractual manpower to support the enhanced and expanded testing capabilities of BIS laboratories and the hiring of additional personnel for the new laboratories.

The wages of the testing personnel engaged on contractual basis were fixed as Rs. 25,000/- per month with an annual increment of maximum 10%, in the 146th meeting of the EC. These wages were again revised to Rs. 30,000/- per month with an annual increment of 5%, in the 154th meeting of EC.

In case of technicians engaged on the contractual basis, the remuneration was approved as per the wages to be paid under skilled category of manpower through an authorised agency. The wages of contractual technicians have not been increased since then.

Reference is cited to the engagement of contractual manpower by the laboratories of National Test House (under Ministry of Consumer Affairs) wherein the remuneration has been fixed as Rs. 40,000/- per month which shall be enhanced by Rs. 5,000/- per month every year in case of extension of tenure.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that with the increased testing output, there is need of continuation of the skilled work force in the BIS labs. During last 4 years, the scope of testing by BIS labs and the overall testing output has increased significantly and BIS has procured various state of the art testing equipment in all labs. BIS labs are also creating and developing testing facilities for new type of products in their domain and the availability of testing persons with requisite knowledge level is becoming difficult.

Further, with the skilling in testing activities in BIS labs, these testing persons are also getting job opportunities in other laboratories on higher wages. This has led to a higher degree of attrition of testing persons on contract basis. Laboratories are also finding it difficult to hire fresh testing person on contract with requisite knowledge basis at the existing remuneration. Further in some cases, the manpower agencies responsible for hiring such skilled personnel have expressed their inability to provide manpower of desired knowledge base at the existing remuneration structure.

With the present attrition rate of contractual manpower in BIS labs and shortage of skilled manpower in filling up these vacant posts may create a void which may greatly hamper the output of labs.

Proposal made to the EC

The BIS laboratories have benefitted significantly from the engagement of the contractual manpower from the comparison of notional income before and after the engagement of contractual manpower:

	Additional Expenditure (Approx.)			
	Contractual Testing Personnel	Contractual Technicians	Total expenditure on contractual personnel	Notional Income

2019-20	-	-	-	26.15 Cr
2023-24	5.98 Cr	1.82 Cr	7.8 Cr	71.19 Cr
2024-25 (till Jan)	5.98 Cr	1.82 Cr	7.8 Cr	61.66 Cr

In view of the above, it is proposed to extend the engagement of the 166 no. of contractual testing personnel and 81 no. of contractual technicians in the BIS laboratories for smooth functioning of the ongoing laboratory activities. Further, it is required to engage additional no. of 34 testing personnel and 29 technicians to meet the future demand of testing operations:

It was proposed that the engagement of contractual manpower for 5 years, in form of 200 testing personnel and 110 technicians may be approved by EC with the terms and conditions as given at Annexure 9G.

The projected annual expenditure in the engagement of 200 contractual testing personnel and 110 technicians would be to the tune of Rs. 9.6 Cr. per annum and 2.64 Cr per annum respectively.

Decision of the EC

EC recommended to re-examine this agenda item vis-s-vis the facts mentioned and revised agenda be placed in the next EC meeting.

Item 10 MODIFICATIONS IN GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR FORMULATION AND REVIEW OF STANDARDS

Background

R&D projects for formulation and review of standards have been floated in accordance with the extant 'Guidelines for Research & Development Projects for Formulation and Review of Standards (Doc no. SCMD/R&D Guidelines/20240522)'.

Based on the difficulties faced by the technical departments in monitoring of projects and experience gained in handling the R&D projects; some modifications in the guidelines are proposed to facilitate completion of R&D projects within the specified time period.

Proposal made to the EC

The agenda item was submitted for approval of the Executive Committee.

Decision of the EC

EC made following observations:

- i. Point 8.3 in the proposed guidelines placed as Annexure 10A be removed as approval of EC is not required on it.
- ii. At point 9.3, term 'considered' be replaced with 'considered provided there is a consent'.
- iii. At point 10.1 (c) and at Point 12.3, 'Chief Finance Officer' be replaced by 'Competent Financial Authority'.
- iv. A point 15.1, it may be added that the approval of Chartered Accountant shall be applying only if proposer is a TC member in personal capacity
- v. Point 17 be reworked taking legal opinion on the matter.

Item 11 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Background

In accordance with Rule 45 of the BIS Rules 2018 and BIS/DGO (450)/2018 dated 09 July 2018, the Bureau is required to prepare its annual report and, with prior approval from the Executive Committee (EC) and the Governing Council, submit it to the Central Government for being laid before both the Houses of Parliament.

The Draft BIS Annual Report for 2023-24, including both English and Hindi versions received approval from the Director General (DG) of BIS on 25th February 2025.

Proposal made to the EC

The agenda item was submitted for approval of the Executive Committee.

Decision of the EC

EC approved.

Item 12 HONOURARIUM FOR RESOURCE PERSONS

Background

Since its establishment in 1995, the National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS), the dedicated training wing of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been organizing various types of training programmes in the fields of standardization and quality assurance.

The initiatives of BIS include capacity building of Govt. officials of States and UTs of various departments and conducting discipline wise technical sessions on important topics in partner academic institutions.

NITS has also developed a structured training plan for capacity building of officials of various Govt departments and UTs. Capacity building of Senior officials of such departments are planned at NITS while that of junior officials are planned at BO level. Presently ten departments have been identified for conducting such trainings. However, capacity building of officials of the officials of remaining departments are likely to be organized in future.

BIS has also signed MoUs with premier academic institutions to promote awareness on standardization among academicians, researchers, and students. A key initiative is the introduction of standardization topics into curricula, along with discipline-wise technical sessions on important topics.

Currently, BIS officials serve as resource persons for the above training programs. However, with the increasing number of programmes, conducting them on time has become increasingly challenging. This has necessitated the engagement of external resource persons for such programmes. Considering the specialized nature of these programmes, it is essential that these RPs be subject matter experts so as to make such programmes more effective and impactful. However, the current honorarium for external experts is very nominal and inadequate to attract and engage the best domain experts as RPs. As such a need was felt to revise the honorariums for the RPs to be engaged in such programmes.

In this regard the EC in its 149th meeting dated 14.07.2021 had advised that *“all training programmes conducted by BIS should be graded into 3 to 4 categories depending on the nature of training. One of the categories could be the one which required hosting a specialist or person of eminence as faculty. DG, BIS shall have the authority to decide the honorarium for this category on case to case basis.”*

Accordingly, the honorariums for RPs to be engaged in the two categories of programmes mentioned above has been revised as under:

Type of faculty	Existing Rates		Proposed New Rates		
	Honorarium per session	Maximum Honorarium per day	Maximum Honorarium per session of up to 2 hrs in a day	Maximum Honorarium for 2 sessions of up to 2 hrs each in a day	Maximum honorarium for more than 2 sessions of up to 2 hours each in a day
Expert/Eminent Persons	Rs.2000/-	Rs.5000/-	Rs.10000/-	Rs.15000/-	Rs 20000/-

Proposal made to the EC

The agenda item was put up only for information. The EC in its 149th meeting dated 14.07.2021 had already authorized DG, BIS to decide the honorarium on case to case basis for those categories of trainings which requires hosting a specialist or person of eminence as faculty.

Decision of the EC

EC noted.