COURTS CRACK DOWN ON FAKE ISI MARKS, NON-COMPLIANT GOODS & JEWELLERY

Judicial Action on Violators Across States; Fines Worth Lakhs Imposed, Goods Ordered Forfeited and Destroyed for Violation of BIS Act, 2016

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In a massive nationwide crackdown on sub-standard manufacturing and fraudulent quality certifications, courts across Maharashtra, Kerala and Odisha have issued stringent judgments penalizing multiple firms for violating mandatory safety and quality standards under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016.

The judicial directives follow nationwide enforcement raids by the Bureau targeting non-compliant industrial materials, unhallmarked gold jewellery, and counterfeit packaged drinking water.

Heavy Penalties for Industrial Misconduct

In one of the largest financial penalties recorded recently, the Judicial Magistrate First Class Court in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, imposed a total fine of ₹34 lakh on an importing firm, M/s. Ador Welding Limited and its 16 directors and officials.

Following a February 2022 raid, enforcement officers had seized 17,703 boxes of 1.2mm flux-cored welding wire, stored for selling purpose without a valid BIS Standard mark and without holding any valid license. Pleading guilty under Section 17(3) read with Section 26(1)(b) of the Act, each accused was fined ₹2 lakh on October 13, 2026, with directions that the seized material be destroyed.

In another major ruling on October 15, 2026, the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Thrissur, Kerala, ordered the complete forfeiture of 162 metric tonnes (MT) of hollow structural steel sections manufactured under the brand name "DEMAC". M/s New Malayalam Steel Private Limited and two associated individuals were fined ₹2 lakh each (totaling ₹6 lakh) for displaying the BIS Standard Mark (IS 4923) without a valid license.

Counterfeit ISI Marks &Unhallmarked Gold

The crackdown also targeted consumer goods. In Bhiwandi, NileshJayramPatil, proprietor of M/s Shree Samarth Water Suppliers, was convicted and fined ₹2 lakh after pleading guilty to printing unauthorized ISI marks on packaged drinking water pouches.

Meanwhile, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, M/s Hindustan Jewellers deposited a court-ordered fine of ₹3 lakh, following the seizure of 138.80 grams of unhallmarked gold jewellery including earring, chain, necklace, pendant, bracelet and bangles.

Bureau of Indian Standards, the national standards body of India urges manufacturers, importers, and retailers to strictly adhere to Quality Control Orders (QCOs), mandatory ISI marking requirements, and gold hallmarking provisions. Non-compliance is a punishable offence under the BIS Act, 2016, carrying heavy fines, forfeiture of goods, and imprisonment. Consumers are encouraged to verify the authenticity of the ISI mark and Hallmarking through the ***'BIS CARE' Mobile App****.*

Public Relations Department

Email – pr@bis.gov.in