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BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

FMCS BIS certification: the licence for foreign manufacturers

FMCS BIS certification is the licence that lets a factory outside India use the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Standard Mark. BIS has run the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS) since 2000. Only the manufacturer applies, online only since June 1, 2026, with an Authorized Indian Representative. BIS visits the factory and draws samples for testing in India.

FMCS IS BIS'S LICENCE scheme for manufacturers whose factories are outside India. A licence lets you put the Standard Mark on a product that meets its Indian Standard.

BIS's FMCS overview says it covers every product except the electronics and IT goods that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has notified. Those go through registration instead.

KEY FACTS

LAW

Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016

SCHEMES

Conformity Assessment Regulations, 2018

AMENDED BY

Conformity Assessment Amendment Regulations, 2026

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What is FMCS BIS certification, and which products does it cover?

FMCS is BIS's licence scheme for manufacturers whose factories are outside India. A licence lets you put the Standard Mark on a product that meets its Indian Standard. BIS's FMCS overview says it covers every product except the electronics and IT goods that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has notified. Those go through registration instead.

BIS's Foreign Manufacturers Certification Department (FMCD), at its headquarters in New Delhi, grants the licences (FMCS overview). Electronics under MeitY's order go to CRS registration under BIS Scheme II. For all of BIS's schemes, see our guide to BIS certification in India.

BIS certification is generally voluntary. BIS's FMCS FAQ says goods under a Quality Control Order (QCO) can be imported only with the Standard Mark under a valid BIS licence (FMCS FAQ, question 2). Our QCO tracker lists which products an order covers, and from when.

Who can apply for FMCS, and how many applications do you need?

Only the foreign manufacturer applies for FMCS. BIS's FMCS FAQ says an importer can't apply on the manufacturer's behalf, though a related importer may act as its Authorized Indian Representative (AIR). Each product, Indian Standard and factory needs its own application. Other brands of the same product from the same factory need only an undertaking for each brand.

How many FMCS applications a foreign manufacturer files (BIS's FMCS FAQ, questions 13 to 15)

Situation	Applications BIS asks for
Two products, or two Indian Standards, made at one factory	One application for each product or standard

One product made at two factories	One application for each factory
One product sold under several brands from one factory	One application, with an undertaking and documents for each brand name

An Indian company importing from a factory in China, or anywhere else abroad, can't hold the FMCS licence: the factory applies (FMCS FAQ, question 17).

Who may be your AIR, and what the AIR answers for, is in our guide to the Authorized Indian Representative for a BIS licence.

How does an FMCS application run, step by step?

An FMCS application runs in seven steps. You nominate your AIR, apply online, answer BIS's questions, host a factory visit, send the drawn samples to a lab in India, and pay the dues. After the grant, you sign an agreement and an indemnity bond and give BIS a performance bank guarantee.

1. Nominate your Authorized Indian Representative.

Name an Indian resident on BIS's nomination form, Form VI of Scheme I, when you apply (Scheme I, paragraph 3(1)(h)).

2. Apply online.

Since June 1, 2026, BIS accepts FMCS applications only through its manakonline portal (how to apply, last updated May 12, 2026).

3. Answer BIS's questions.

BIS records the application, checks it, emails any questions, and records it again once it is complete (grant of licence page, paragraphs 1 to 3).

4. Host the factory visit.

BIS visits the factory to check its manufacturing and testing setup, and draws samples for independent testing. The visit normally lasts two days for a foreign manufacturer (Guidelines for Grant of Licence, February 25, 2026, paragraph 5(a)).

5. Send the samples to a lab in India.

You send the samples BIS draws to a BIS lab or a BIS-recognized lab in India, and you pay the testing charges (FMCS FAQ, question 11). Your AIR may contact the lab about BIS's samples only to deposit them and pay (BIS's AIR page, paragraph (i)(3)).

6. Pay the dues before grant.

Once the inspection report and independent test reports show the product meets its Indian Standard, you pay the licence fee, the advance minimum marking fee and other dues (grant of licence page, paragraphs 6 and 7).

7. Sign the agreement and give the bank guarantee.

Right after grant, you sign an agreement and an indemnity bond. You also give a performance bank guarantee from any bank with a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved branch in India (Scheme I, paragraph 3(5)(b) and (c)).

Every foreign manufacturer's case runs under Option 1, where BIS draws the samples. Option 2, built on the applicant's own third-party test reports, isn't open to foreign manufacturers (Guidelines for Grant of Licence, paragraphs 3(c), 3(f) and 4). See how BIS grants an ISI mark licence.

The BIS documents we read describe a factory visit by BIS itself, not a remote or third-party inspection. See which labs and test reports BIS accepts.

How long does FMCS certification take?

BIS's Citizen's Charter of January 2024 sets 6 months for a licence to a foreign manufacturer. BIS's FMCS grant page says the average is generally six months from the day BIS records a complete application. Both are BIS's own norms, not promises. BIS says the time varies with delays in replies, inspections, sample deposits and payments.

BIS's own time norms for an FMCS licence

BIS document	What it says
Citizen's Charter, January 2024, Annexure A, item 2(a)(2)	6 months for the scheme for foreign manufacturers
FMCS grant of licence page, note 1 (last updated January 14, 2021)	Generally six months on average, from recording a complete application

BIS's FMCS overview page lists contact details for FMCD, the department to follow up with.

If a QCO's date comes before your licence, see the Transition Facilitation Order. For products under ten QCOs, it lets a company with the government's permission buy goods made under a BIS Scheme II licence.

What do you owe BIS after the FMCS licence is granted?

An FMCS licensee reports production and dispatch of Standard Marked goods to BIS every month or quarter. BIS keeps visiting the factory for surveillance and collects samples in the Indian market. New varieties need test reports from BIS-recognized labs, no more than 90 days old.

- On a surveillance visit, a BIS officer tests in the factory and draws samples for BIS or BIS-recognized labs (operation of licence page).
- FMCD plans market surveillance of foreign manufacturers, and may ask BIS agents to collect the samples in India (market surveillance guidelines, February 25, 2026, paragraph 4).
- To add varieties, grades or types, you send original test reports from BIS-recognized labs and pay the charges. With several reports, the latest may be up to 90 days old and the oldest up to 180 (inclusion page, last updated February 3, 2026).
- If the AIR doesn't cooperate, BIS may suspend or cancel the licence (BIS's AIR page, paragraph (j)). See BIS licence suspension and cancellation, and how to appeal.

Since February 25, 2026, a Scheme I licence runs up to five years and renews for up to five more (Conformity Assessment Amendment Regulations, 2026, Scheme I, paragraph 8). Its fees are paid every year in advance (regulation 5(3)). If the annual fee with the production statement doesn't reach BIS by the due date, the licence stands suspended for ninety days (regulation 8(11)). See BIS licence renewal and annual fees.

Which FMCS pages on BIS's website are out of date?

Two of BIS's FMCS pages and its FMCS FAQ predate changes made in 2026. They still give a first licence of up to two years, though the 2026 amendment allows up to five. The FAQ still says online filing will come in due course, though online is the only route since June 1, 2026.

What BIS's FMCS pages say, and what applies on November 8, 2026

Topic	What BIS's FMCS page says	What applies now
First licence period	One to two years (grant of licence page, January 14, 2021; renewal page, February 3, 2026); up to two years (FAQ, question 19)	Up to five years, renewable for up to five more, since February 25, 2026 (Amendment Regulations, 2026, Scheme I, paragraph 8)
Online filing	BIS "is making a provision to apply on line in due course of time" (FAQ, question 4, last updated December 13, 2021)	Online applications only, since June 1, 2026 (how to apply page, last updated May 12, 2026)

What happens at India's border once you hold an FMCS licence?

An FMCS licence lets the goods you ship to India carry the Standard Mark, which goods under a QCO need to be imported. Customs clearance, India's import policy and duties follow separate rules, covered in our guides below. BIS may also draw market samples from your imported consignments.

See customs in India, Indian customs for foreign companies, India's import policy and exporting to India.

How IndusDesk helps foreign manufacturers with FMCS

We watch the authorities, tell you what each change means for your products and plans, represent you while a decision is still open, and carry the work through, with every step on record in your workspace. Licences and approvals are how we carry it through, never the whole of the work.

For a foreign manufacturer, we read which Indian Standard and scheme apply, prepare the application, documents and replies to BIS for you and your AIR to file, and track annual fees, renewals and revisions. We never promise a licence: BIS decides.

IndusDesk can act as your Authorized Indian Representative for a BIS licence.

Government affairs →

Regulatory & trade advisory →

Talk to our desk about FMCS certification Message us on WhatsApp

Frequently asked questions

Can our Indian importer apply for the BIS licence?

No. BIS's FMCS FAQ says only the foreign manufacturer may apply (question 17). An importer related to you may still act as your Authorized Indian Representative (BIS, Nomination of AIR).

Are IEC or CB test reports accepted for FMCS?

No. BIS's FMCS FAQ says it accepts only a test report against the relevant Indian Standard, not one to an International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) or any other standard (question 10). A CB Scheme report made to an IEC standard doesn't count either.

Do we need a separate FMCS licence for each factory?

Yes. Each factory needs its own application, as does each product and Indian Standard made there (who can apply, note; FMCS FAQ, questions 13 and 14).

Is FMCS filing online now?

Yes. Since June 1, 2026, BIS accepts FMCS applications only online, and paper ones ended on May 31, 2026 (how to apply).

Sources

- BIS, FMCS Overview (last updated February 18, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: Who can apply, and its note on separate applications (last updated December 23, 2025)
- BIS, FMCS: How to apply, paragraph 5 (last updated May 12, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: Grant of Licence, paragraphs 1 to 11 and note 1 (last updated January 14, 2021)
- BIS, FMCS: Operation of Licence (last updated January 14, 2021)
- BIS, FMCS: Inclusion of new varieties, paragraph 1 and note (last updated February 3, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: Renewal of licence, paragraph 1 (last updated February 3, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: Frequently Asked Questions, questions 2, 4, 10, 11, 13 to 15, 17 and 19 (last updated December 13, 2021)
- BIS, FMCS: Nomination of the Authorized Indian Representative, paragraphs (i)(3), (i)(5) and (j) (last updated February 5, 2026)
- BIS, Guidelines for Grant of Licence under Scheme I, CMD-I/2:12:1, February 25, 2026: paragraphs 3(c), 3(f), 4 and 5(a) (PDF, 472 KB)
- Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018, as published on June 4, 2018: Scheme I, paragraphs 3(1)(h) and 3(5)
- Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Amendment Regulations, 2026, February 25, 2026 (Gazette CG-DL-E-26022026-270512): regulations 5(3) and 8(11), and Scheme I, paragraph 8 (PDF, 1.6 MB)
- BIS Citizen's Charter, January 2024: Annexure A, item 2(a)(2)
- BIS, Guidelines for market surveillance during operation of licence under Scheme I, CMD-I/2:12:7, February 25, 2026: paragraph 4 (PDF, 192 KB)

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