November 8, 2026

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

BIS licence suspension and cancellation, and how to appeal

BIS licence suspension and cancellation follow set rules. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) suspends a licence on sufficient evidence the goods may not conform, and may cancel one on 21 days' notice or more for a broken licence condition. A first failed sample usually brings a request for corrective action. Appeals go to BIS's Director General within 90 days.

BIS FINDS A FAILURE BY testing your product. It may inspect your factory with or without notice and draw samples there. It generally buys two market samples a year for each licence, three or four for a poor record. It records each test report as conforming or not, normally within 5 working days.

KEY FACTS

LAW

Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016

SCHEMES

Conformity Assessment Regulations, 2018

AMENDED BY

Conformity Assessment Amendment Regulations, 2026

UPDATED

November 8, 2026

BIS licence suspension and cancellation, and how to appeal

Bureau of Indian Standards · November 8, 2026

BIS licence suspension and cancellation follow set rules. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) suspends a licence on sufficient evidence the goods may not conform, and may cancel one on 21 days' notice or more for a broken licence condition. A first failed sample usually brings a request for corrective action. Appeals go to BIS's Director General within 90 days.

How does BIS find a failed sample?

BIS finds a failure by testing your product. It may inspect your factory with or without notice and draw samples there. It generally buys two market samples a year for each licence, three or four for a poor record. It records each test report as conforming or not, normally within 5 working days.

BIS may buy samples in the open market, from organized buyers or at any point in the supply chain, including the port of entry (market surveillance guidelines, paragraph 5(1)). To plan them, you file month-wise production and consignee details on the portal every quarter. See our guide to BIS certification.

Foreign makers get factory visits and market samples (FMCS operation page). BIS's Foreign Manufacturers Certification Department plans their market samples and may use BIS agents in India (paragraph 4). See FMCS, the BIS licence for foreign manufacturers.

What happens after a failed sample?

After a first failed sample, BIS usually asks for corrective action, not a suspension. You get 15 days to reply if a product recall notice comes with it, and 30 days otherwise. A second consecutive critical failure, or a third consecutive failure, may bring a suspension notice with 10 days to explain, under BIS's February 2026 guidelines.

Failed samples under BIS's February 2026 guidelines

Stage	What BIS does	Time given	Guideline paragraph
First failed sample	Asks for corrective action, with a root-cause analysis and test report	15 days with a recall notice, 30 days without one	Paragraph 8(i) and (iii)
Product recall notice	A committee of officers assesses the risk to health or safety	15 days, with the corrective action	Paragraphs 8(iii) and 11(i)
Labeling or marking slip	Not a failed sample unless specified; repeats bring a suspension notice	Slips counted over the last 2 years	Paragraph 7
Main grounds for suspension	A second critical failure in a row, a third failure in a row, or over a third of at least 3 samples failing critical requirements	Samples of the last 2 years	Paragraph 12(ii) to (iv)
Notice before suspension	The head of the BIS branch office asks you to explain	10 days from the notice	Paragraph 13
Grounds for cancellation	Over half of at least 4 samples fail critical requirements, or 3 critical failures in a row after a chance to correct	Samples of the last 2 years	Paragraph 19(iii)

A first failure can still go further if over a third of your test reports in 2 years failed (paragraph 8(ii)). If your test report isn't ready in time, send proof the sample is under test. The full report is due within 45 days of BIS's letter (paragraph 8(vi) and (vii)). See which labs and test reports BIS accepts.

Option 2, the simplified route to a licence, is stricter. If the sample BIS draws at its factory visit under Option 2 fails, BIS suspends the licence at once. With no corrective action and fresh samples within 30 days, or a fresh failure, cancellation starts, though BIS may allow one more chance (Grant of Licence guidelines, paragraph 8(a)).

What else can suspend or cancel a BIS licence when the product passes?

Factory or paperwork problems can: missing consignee details, for example, bring a request to update them, then a suspension notice. Non-cooperation with BIS officers skips suspension: BIS asks you to explain within 15 days, then may start cancellation. An unpaid annual fee and production statement suspend the licence for 90 days. Other unpaid fees bring 21 days of notice.

BIS's unsatisfactory performance guidelines give an open list of grounds (paragraph 5). For missing consignee details, BIS first asks you to update them on its portal within 30 days, and

may then issue a suspension notice (paragraph 8(v)). For non-cooperation with its officers or agents, BIS generally gives one more chance on an undertaking to cooperate, and may cancel in serious cases (paragraphs 8(xiii), 19(ii) and 20(ii)).

Paying within the 90 days, with a late fee, lifts that suspension; otherwise the licence is canceled. Other unpaid fees bring a suspension after 21 days of notice (regulations 8(11) and 10(3), Amendment Regulations, 2026). Due dates are on BIS licence renewal and annual fees.

What must you do while your BIS licence is suspended?

Stop using the Standard Mark at once and tell BIS (regulation 10(4)). The Mark may not be used during a suspension (regulation 6(6)). BIS's suspension letter also bars marking and dispatching the product, including stock in hand, and asks for your marked stock, batches and pending orders. BIS shows suspended licences on its e-BIS portal.

For a compulsory product, if you don't respond within 15 days, BIS may visit within the next 15 days to check (non-conformity guidelines, paragraph 15(i)). Its letter warns that marked goods sold after a suspension count as a breach of the BIS Act, 2016; see BIS penalties and compounding.

Under the Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS, Scheme II), you suspend the Mark yourself if you can't keep the product conforming, and tell BIS within seven days of resuming. After a cancellation, supply, import and sale with the Mark stop (Scheme II, paragraphs 11 and 12). See CRS registration.

How do you get a BIS suspension lifted?

BIS lifts a suspension for failed samples after verifying your corrective actions (regulation 10(5) and (8)). Once your reply is complete, BIS normally visits within 15 days and tests a sample. After a satisfactory visit and conforming results, it normally revokes the suspension within 7 days. These are BIS's norms, not promises.

1. Send a complete reply.

Give the corrective actions and evidence, and have a fresh batch ready (paragraph 16(i); Annexure IV).

2. Host the visit.

A BIS officer checks your corrective actions and tests or draws a sample (paragraph 16(ii)).

3. Wait for the result.

Revocation normally follows within 7 days of a conforming result (paragraph 17).

If the sample fails again, the suspension stays, and a further failure may start cancellation (paragraph 17(vi)). After a suspension, BIS buys a market sample every three months until 3 in a row conform (paragraph 21(ii)).

Paying a late annual fee doesn't lift a suspension for failed samples (regulation 8(12)).

When can BIS cancel a licence?

BIS may cancel a licence if you break a licence condition or it was issued in error, after at least 21 days of notice (regulation 11(1), as amended in 2026). You may explain and be heard in person or through an authorized representative. A licence suspended for more than a year may be canceled without further notice.

With no explanation, BIS may cancel when the notice runs out (regulation 11(2) to (5)). BIS's guidelines add a cancellation notice before a suspension reaches a year, and may allow a first chance to correct (paragraphs 19(ii) and 20(i)(b)).

A licence isn't processed for cancellation where the offense was compounded (regulation 11(3)); see BIS penalties for goods without a valid licence.

How do you appeal a BIS suspension or cancellation?

Appeal to BIS's Director General within 90 days of the order (section 34 of the BIS Act, 2016; rule 37 of the BIS Rules, 2018). A late appeal may be admitted for sufficient cause. The Director General hears the parties and is to decide within 90 days. A further appeal goes to the central government within 60 days.

1. Note the date of the order.

The 90 days run from it (rule 37(1)).

2. File with the Director General.

File in duplicate with a self-attested copy of the order (rule 37(2)) and the fee in rule 37(3). A late appeal needs sufficient cause (section 34(2)).

3. Attend the hearing.

The Director General hears the parties and is to decide within 90 days of filing (rule 37(4)).

4. Appeal further if you need to.

Go to the central government, in the ministry that oversees BIS, within 60 days of the Director General's order (rule 37(6); section 34(6)).

Some guides cite section 32 of the Act. That section is about which courts try offenses; appeals are section 34.

Can you apply again after a cancellation?

Yes, but only under Option 1 if your earlier licence for the same product at the same premises was canceled, expired or surrendered over failed samples. Option 1 means a factory visit and samples tested in a third-party lab. The simplified Option 2 route is closed to you (Grant of Licence guidelines, paragraph 3(b)).

The non-conformity guidelines agree (paragraph 31). See the ISI mark licence.

How IndusDesk helps with BIS licence suspension and cancellation

We read the test report, the notice and the guideline paragraph BIS relies on, and tell you where your case stands. We prepare your reply, the corrective action record and, if it comes to that, the appeal papers, for you to file. Licences and approvals are how we carry it through, never the whole of the work.

We don't appear before BIS's Director General or any court, and we can't promise how BIS decides.

Government affairs →

Regulatory & trade advisory →

Talk to our desk about a BIS suspension or cancellation Message us on WhatsApp

Frequently asked questions

Does a labeling slip count as a failed sample?

Not unless BIS specifies it. Repeated labeling or marking slips over the last 2 years can still bring a suspension notice (non-conformity guidelines, paragraph 7).

Does paying a late annual fee lift a BIS suspension?

Paying within the 90 days, with a late fee, lifts the suspension for that unpaid fee (regulation 8(11)). It doesn't lift a suspension for failed samples or other non-compliance (Amendment Regulations, 2026, regulation 8(12)).

Can a CRS licensee suspend the Mark on its own?

Yes. Under the Compulsory Registration Scheme, a licensee that can't keep the product conforming suspends use of the Standard Mark itself, and tells BIS within seven days of starting again (Scheme II, paragraph 11(1)).

Sources

- BIS, Guidelines for dealing with non-conformity of product(s) observed during operation of licence under Scheme-I, CMD-I/2:12:2 (Part 1), February 25, 2026: paragraphs 3, 7, 8, 11 to 13, 15 to 17, 19 to 21, 25, 31 and Annexure IV (PDF, 312 KB)
- BIS, Guidelines for dealing with unsatisfactory performance (other than non-conformity of the product) during operation of licence under Scheme-I, CMD-I/2:12:2 (Part 2), February 25, 2026: paragraphs 5, 8(v), 8(xiii), 19(ii) and 20(ii) (PDF, 237 KB)
- BIS, Guidelines for market surveillance during operation of licence under Scheme-I, CMD-I/2:12:7, February 25, 2026: paragraphs 4 and 5(1) (PDF, 192 KB)
- Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018, as published on June 4, 2018: regulations 6(6), 10 and 11, and Scheme I, paragraph 3(6)
- Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Amendment Regulations, 2026, February 25, 2026: regulations 8(11) and (12), 10(3) and 11(1), and Scheme II, paragraphs 11 and 12 (PDF, 1.6 MB)
- BIS, Guidelines for Grant of Licence under Scheme-I, CMD-I/2:12:1, February 25, 2026: paragraphs 3(b) and 8(a) (PDF, 472 KB)
- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (No. 11 of 2016): sections 32 and 34 (PDF, 133 KB)
- Bureau of Indian Standards Rules, 2018, BIS compilation with amendments up to September 2020: rule 37
- BIS, FMCS: Operation of Licence (web page, last updated January 14, 2021)

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

Read online: indusdesk.com/bis/suspension-and-cancellation/