November 8, 2026

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

BIS testing labs: which labs and test reports BIS accepts

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) accepts reports, against the Indian Standard only, from four kinds of BIS testing labs: its own, recognized, empaneled government and Executive Committee-approved labs. For an ISI mark application under Option 2, the latest report may be at most 90 days old. Since December 16, 2025, most licensees need no in-house lab.

FOR AN ISI MARK licence, BIS accepts reports from labs it runs or recognizes for the product, Group 2 labs included. Government labs it has empaneled count too, and so does any lab its Executive Committee decides on. That's paragraph 4(e) of the grant guidelines of February 25, 2026. Accreditation alone isn't enough.

KEY FACTS

LAW

Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016

SCHEMES

Conformity Assessment Regulations, 2018

AMENDED BY

Conformity Assessment Amendment Regulations, 2026

UPDATED

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Which BIS testing labs can test your product?

For an ISI mark licence, BIS accepts reports from labs it runs or recognizes for the product, Group 2 labs included. Government labs it has empaneled count too, and so does any lab its Executive Committee decides on. That's paragraph 4(e) of the grant guidelines of February 25, 2026. Accreditation alone isn't enough.

BIS recognizes labs in India and abroad under its Laboratory Recognition Scheme, 2020. A lab must first hold ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation from a full member of ILAC, APAC or another regional body (paragraph 4.1.1).

Group 2 labs are government labs "of national repute and eminence" that BIS uses where few other labs test a product. They aren't BIS-recognized labs, and BIS doesn't audit them (paragraph 15).

BIS's product certification FAQ (question 12) points to its list of labs for each product. For the Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS), you pick an approved lab on the portal when you raise the test request (our CRS registration guide).

A NABL-accredited lab's report has one narrow use at grant: for raw materials a standard requires to conform. It counts when the material isn't ISI marked and no report from those labs exists (paragraph 4(h)(ii)). How testing fits each scheme is in our guide to BIS certification in India.

How old can a BIS test report be?

For an ISI mark licence under Option 2, a test report may be at most 90 days old, counted from its issue to the day BIS's branch office receives your application. With several reports, the oldest

may be 180 days old (paragraph 4(f) of the grant guidelines). CRS sets its own limits.

How old a test report may be, by route

Route	Maximum age	Counted to	Rule
ISI mark licence, Option 2	90 days; with several reports, 180 days for the oldest	The day BIS's branch office receives the application	Grant guidelines, paragraph 4(f)
ISI mark licence, an older report	Allowed only by the regional Deputy Director General, on the branch office's reasons	Case by case	Grant guidelines, paragraph 4(g)
CRS registration (Scheme II)	90 days from the report's issue	The day you apply on the CRS portal	BIS's CRS registration steps
CRS sample	60 days to send it to the lab	From the day the test request is generated	BIS's CRS page on samples
Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS), adding a variety	90 days; with several reports, 180 days for the oldest	The day BIS's branch office receives the application	BIS's FMCS page on new varieties, February 3, 2026

Does BIS accept IEC, EN, UL or CB test reports?

No. BIS accepts test reports only against the relevant Indian Standard. Asked whether a report to IEC "or any standard other than Indian Standard" can be accepted, BIS's FMCS FAQ answers "Not accepted" (question 10). A report counts only if it shows conformity to the Indian Standard, whatever scheme or mark it carries, CB included.

How a foreign maker gets an ISI mark licence is in our FMCS guide.

Can samples be tested in the manufacturer's own country?

BIS's FMCS FAQ says no. Samples BIS draws at a foreign factory are tested "only in the laboratories of BIS and those recognized by BIS". The applicant sends them to a lab in India and

pays the actual testing charges (question 11). Separately, BIS's Laboratory Recognition Scheme, 2020 lets BIS recognize labs outside India.

A foreign lab needs an office or an authorized representative in India, unless BIS has an agreement with its government (paragraph 12). The FMCS FAQ, last updated December 13, 2021, still names a lab in India.

What if no lab tests your Indian Standard?

Where no third-party lab tests a product, BIS's grant guidelines let the head of the branch office approve testing at a lab equipped for similar products (paragraph 18(a)). BIS may also grant on tests witnessed at the factory (paragraph 3(d)). The branch also tells BIS's lab department (LPPD), so a lab's recognition can be widened (paragraph 18(b)).

A product nobody in India holds a licence for yet is an "All India first" case, and goes under Option 1. Option 2 may be considered once BIS's website lists a third-party lab for its Indian Standard (paragraph 9(ii)). Both options are in our guide to the ISI mark licence.

Do you still need an in-house lab for a BIS licence?

No, for most products. BIS's circular CMD-I/2:4:1 of December 16, 2025 says "There is no obligation to maintain in-house laboratory". You may test through a shared facility, a cluster lab, a BIS-recognized or empaneled lab, or any lab accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. It replaced the circular of July 16, 2024.

BIS's scheme of inspection and testing in each product manual is now a recommendation. You may declare your own quality assurance plan instead (paragraph 2). The circular doesn't apply to:

- DPIIT or Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) products under pre-dispatch or lot inspection, and cement under DPIIT's cement desk;
- food products and protective helmets for two-wheeler riders;

- products certified on factory testing under their own guidelines.

> What the circular doesn't settle
>
> It doesn't mention foreign makers under FMCS. BIS's FMCS who-can-apply page, last updated December 23, 2025, still asks for testing equipment and staff in the factory.

For furniture, see our furniture QCO guide. The circular is summarized in our insight of December 16, 2025.

Who pays for BIS testing, and are lab charges capped?

Under Option 1, you pay for testing the samples BIS draws. Under Option 2, testing BIS's verification sample is covered by the annual minimum marking fee (grant guidelines, paragraph 15). FMCS applicants pay the actual testing charges. No BIS text we read sets a maximum amount, but a recognized lab fixes its charges for three years.

The three years are paragraph 14 of the recognition scheme, which allows a rise only when the standard changes. "BIS approved testing charges" apply to licence samples (paragraph 3.4). BIS doesn't regulate Group 2 labs' charges (paragraph 15).

How does BIS record test results, and what if a sample fails?

BIS's branch office records each test report as conforming or non-conforming on its portal, normally within 5 working days of receiving it. For a first failure, it tells you normally within 15 working days and asks for corrective action within 15 days if it issues a recall notice, or 30 days otherwise.

The times are from BIS's non-conformity guidelines (paragraphs 3(i), 8(i) and 8(iii)). Under Option 2, a failed sample from the factory visit means suspension at once (grant guidelines, paragraph 8(a)). What follows is in our guide to BIS licence suspension and cancellation.

How IndusDesk helps with BIS testing

We work out which scheme, option and Indian Standard apply, check your test reports against BIS's rules before you file, and prepare your documents and replies to BIS. Where a testing rule doesn't work for your industry, we help you make the case to BIS. BIS decides every licence. Licences and approvals are how we carry it through, never the whole of the work.

Public policy & advocacy →

Regulatory & trade advisory →

Talk to our desk about BIS testing Message us on WhatsApp

Frequently asked questions

Is a NABL-accredited lab enough for BIS?

Not for the reports you apply with: paragraph 4(e) of BIS's grant guidelines names the labs. Once licensed, most makers may send their routine testing to any lab accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 (circular CMD-I/2:4:1).

Can a foreign maker apply with test reports from its home country?

Not for an ISI mark licence. Option 2, where you apply with reports, isn't open to foreign makers. Every foreign application goes through Option 1, with BIS drawing the samples (grant guidelines, paragraph 3(f)).

Do MSMEs need their own lab?

No. Since December 16, 2025, no manufacturer needs an in-house lab to run a BIS licence, whatever its size, except for the product groups the circular leaves out. Whether it reaches foreign makers under FMCS isn't settled.

Does a recognized lab's report mean BIS grants the licence?

No. BIS still visits the factory, and under Option 2 it draws its own sample to check (grant guidelines, paragraph 4(c)).

Sources

- BIS, Guidelines for Grant of Licence under Scheme I, CMD-I/2:12:1, February 25, 2026: paragraphs 3(c), (d) and (f), 4(a) to (h), 8(a), 9, 15 and 18 (PDF, 472 KB)
- BIS circular CMD-I/2:4:1, In-house laboratory requirement for manufacturers operating BIS product certification, December 16, 2025 (PDF, 75 KB)
- BIS, Laboratory Recognition Scheme, 2020 (BIS/LRS/2020, June 23, 2020, as amended in 2020, 2022 and 2024): paragraphs 3.2, 3.4, 4.1.1, 12, 14 and 15
- BIS, Guidelines for dealing with non-conformity of products under Scheme I, CMD-I/2:12:2 (Part 1), February 25, 2026: paragraphs 3(i), 8(i) and 8(iii) (PDF, 312 KB)
- BIS, FMCS: Frequently Asked Questions (last updated December 13, 2021): questions 10 and 11
- BIS, FMCS: Inclusion of new varieties (last updated February 3, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: Who can apply (last updated December 23, 2025)
- BIS, Product Certification: Frequently Asked Questions (last updated February 3, 2026): questions 12 and 13
- BIS CRS portal: Registration, steps involved
- BIS CRS portal: How to submit the sample

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