October 29, 2026

DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE

Indian Boiler Regulations 2026 and the Boilers Act, 2025

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KEY FACTS

FDI POLICY

Consolidated FDI Policy Circular of 2020

LAND-BORDER RULE

Press Note No. 2 (2026 Series)

PROCUREMENT

Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017

UPDATED

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Which boiler law applies now?

The Boilers Act, 2025 applies now. It replaced the Boilers Act, 1923 on May 1, 2025 (section 45(1); S.O. 1943(E)). Under it, the Central Boilers Board made the Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026 (IBR) on August 7, 2026. They replaced the 1950 regulations and apply from their publication in the Gazette issue of October 1, 2026 (regulation 1(3)).

- **What carries over:** boilers registered under the 1923 Act count as registered under the new one (section 45(2)(f)). The 1950 regulations kept applying until new ones were made (section 45(2)(a)).
- **Who regulates:** the Central Boilers Board, under DPIIT, regulates the design, manufacture, erection and use of boilers (section 3(7)). Each state registers boilers through its Chief Inspector (sections 5 and 12).

Before the new Act, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 amended the 1923 Act from September 22, 2023 (S.O. 4124(E)). More on the regulations: Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026 replace the 1950 regulations.

What counts as a boiler?

A boiler, under the Boilers Act, 2025, is a pressure vessel that makes steam for use outside itself (section 2(c)). Three kinds of vessel are not boilers: one under 25 liters, one whose design and working gauge pressure are under 1 kg/cm², and one that heats water below 100°C.

Some online answers still give 22.7 liters or 7 kg/cm². Neither is the 2025 Act's line. The 25 liters is measured from the feed check valve to the main steam stop valve (section 2(c)(i)).

The Act excludes railway locomotive boilers, boilers on steam-driven vessels, the armed forces' boilers and hospital sterilizer boilers of up to 100 liters (section 1(4)). A state may exempt boilers used only to heat buildings or supply hot water (section 38(2)).

Gas cylinders and unfired pressure vessels have their own rules: see the PESO licence guide.

What must a boiler maker do?

A boiler maker needs four things before building: the design and construction facilities the regulations set, a design certified by an inspecting authority, materials that meet the specifications, and welders certified by a competent authority (Boilers Act, 2025, section 7). The maker must also engage an inspecting authority to inspect at the stages the regulations set (section 8(1)).

- **The two authorities:** an inspecting authority, a state's Chief Inspector or a recognized firm, inspects and certifies boilers during manufacture and erection (section 2(j)). A competent authority certifies welders (section 6(1)).
- **The maker's class:** a firm applies to an inspecting authority in the state where it seeks recognition (regulation 7). Classes run from Special Class (any type and capacity) to Class IV (working pressure up to 17.5 kg/cm²), plus boiler components. Fees run from ₹20,000 to ₹5,000; renewal costs half.

How is a boiler made outside India approved?

A boiler made outside India has its drawings approved under the IBR in up to three steps, before manufacture starts. First, the inspecting authority in the country of manufacture examines the drawings and material details. Large boilers then go to the Technical Adviser (Boilers). The Chief Inspector of the state of use gives final approval (regulation 321).

1. Start with the inspecting authority abroad

Send the manufacturing drawings and the particulars of materials, design and construction to the inspecting authority in the country of manufacture (regulation 321(2)).

2. Add the Technical Adviser for large boilers

Fired boilers that can make 100 tons of steam an hour or more, and waste heat boilers of 20 tons an hour or more, go next to the Technical Adviser (Boilers). The Adviser reviews the choice of materials (regulation 321(3)).

3. Get final approval in the state of use

The Chief Inspector of Boilers of the state where the boiler will be installed and used approves the drawings, before manufacture starts (regulation 321(3) and (4)).

Appendix K of the regulations sets the authorities' own time limits for the last two steps. The Technical Adviser has 5 days for materials approved before at the same design pressure and temperature, and 10 days otherwise. The Chief Inspector has 21 days for the drawings (serials 12 and 13).

The limits run from complete documents. Once a limit passes, the approval "shall be deemed to have been granted" (notes 1 and 2). Appendix K sets no limit for the inspecting authority's own drawing review abroad.

The drawing scrutiny fee depends on the boiler's heating surface, up to ₹50,000. Resubmitting drawings with changes beyond those suggested adds 10% of the first fee (regulation 321(6)). For the other rules a foreign maker meets, see investing in India as a foreign company.

How do foreign firms get recognized under the Indian Boiler Regulations?

Foreign firms get Central Boilers Board recognition by applying to the Board's Secretary with two years' experience in the activity and the fee. A competent authority, steel maker, tube or pipe maker, or foundry or forge pays USD 10,000; an inspecting authority pays USD 1,000 (regulation 17). Recognition lasts five years and can be renewed for five more.

Central Boilers Board recognition fees (Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026, regulation 17)

Applicant	Fee	Regulation
Foreign competent authority, steel maker, tube or pipe maker, or foundry or forge	USD 10,000	Regulation 17(4)

Each further unit of that firm in the same country	USD 2,000 a unit	Regulation 17(4), proviso
Foreign inspecting authority	USD 1,000	Regulation 17(5)
Firm in India, any recognition	₹15,000; ₹10,000 to renew	Regulation 17(6)

1. Apply to the Secretary, Central Boilers Board.

Use Forms VI(Part-A) to VI(Part-G), on paper or electronically (regulation 17(1) and (2)). The Board's 2025 instructions take applications on the National Single Window System (para 1).

2. Allow for the evaluation of your works.

The Evaluation Committee is to evaluate a maker's works within 90 days of receiving the fee for works abroad, or 60 days for works in India (regulation 17(7)).

Old figures still circulate. The Board's 2025 instructions, written for the 1950 regulations, show USD 1,000 for a foreign competent authority (para 3). The 2026 regulations set USD 10,000, and they give a renewal fee only for firms in India (regulation 17(6)).

What are the penalties under the Boilers Act, 2025?

The Boilers Act, 2025 sets a penalty of up to ₹1 lakh for using a boiler without a certificate or above its allowed pressure, plus up to ₹1,000 each further day (section 28). Tampering with a safety valve or unauthorized structural changes carry up to two years in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 lakh, or both (section 29).

Penalties under the Boilers Act, 2025

Breach	Penalty	Section
Minor failures, such as not reporting an accident or not producing a certificate when asked	Up to ₹5,000	Section 27
Using a boiler without a certificate, above its allowed pressure or without its register number marked	Up to ₹1 lakh, plus up to ₹1,000 for each day after the first while it continues	Section 28
An unauthorized structural change, tampering with a safety valve, or letting someone inside a boiler that isn't cut off from steam, hot water or fuel	Up to 2 years in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 lakh, or both	Section 29
Breaching a rule or regulation that provides for a penalty	Up to ₹1,000, then up to ₹1 lakh for a repeat	Section 31

The state may authorize a District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate to impose the penalties in sections 27, 28, 30(1) and 31 (section 35). A prosecution needs the Chief Inspector's prior sanction and must start within 24 months of the offense (section 33).

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Latest notices and insights

- Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026 replace the 1950 regulations (Insight, October 1, 2026)

Frequently asked questions

How long does a boiler maker's recognition last?

Three years. An inspecting authority recognizes the maker in the class it applied for, and the maker may apply to renew at least 90 days before the end (regulation 7(3) and (4)). The Central

Boilers Board's own recognitions last five years (regulation 17(9)).

Can a foreign inspection body inspect boilers for India?

Yes, once the Central Boilers Board recognizes it as an inspecting authority, for USD 1,000 (regulation 17(5)). It must be a registered entity, not a sole proprietorship, doing only inspection, certification and related work. To operate in India, it must be registered in India with its design and drawing inspection office there (regulation 24(2)).

How is a boiler registered, and how soon is it examined?

The owner applies to the state's Inspector, who sets an examination within 30 days, or a shorter period the state sets, with at least ten days' notice (Boilers Act, 2025, section 12(3)). The Chief Inspector then registers the boiler or refuses with reasons, and on registration orders a certificate to use it for up to 12 months (section 12(5) and (6)).

Sources

- Act No. 12 of 2025: The Boilers Act, 2025 (Gazette of India, April 4, 2025), sections 1(4), 2(c), 2(j), 3(7), 5, 6(1), 7, 8(1), 12, 27 to 31, 33, 35, 38(2) and 45
- S.O. 1943(E), April 30, 2025: Date of commencement of the Boilers Act, 2025 (May 1, 2025)
- Central Boilers Board, F. No. P-30014/3/2021-Boiler, August 7, 2026: Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026 (Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 596, October 1, 2026), regulations 1, 7, 17, 24(2) and 321, and Appendix K (PDF, 31 MB)
- Act No. 18 of 2023: The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, Schedule, serial 3 (the Boilers Act, 1923)
- S.O. 4124(E), September 19, 2023: Commencement of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 for the Boilers Act, 1923 (September 22, 2023)
- Central Boilers Board: Instructions to submit the application for recognition or renewal as Inspecting Authority, Competent Authority and well-known manufacturers under the Indian Boiler Regulations, 1950 (uploaded August 8, 2025), paras 1 and 3

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