October 28, 2026

MINISTRY OF STEEL

# 162 semi-finished stainless steel grades get QCO exemption

A Ministry of Steel order of October 28, 2026 exempts 162 semi-finished stainless steel grades under IS 14650 from QCO compliance until March 31, 2027.

THE MINISTRY OF STEEL has exempted 162 grades of semi-finished stainless steel products covered under IS 14650 from quality control order (QCO) compliance until March 31, 2027. Its Technical Division issued the order, dated October 28, 2026, under file number S-20011/15/2024-TECH-Part(1), with the subject "QCO compliance exemption for Stainless steel flat (semi-finished) products." It issues with the approval of the Competent Authority and is signed by G. Sarathy Raja, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India. It is published on steel.gov.in, not in the Gazette.

KEY FACTS

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Ministry of Steel

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Ministry of Steel (Technical Division)

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Order No. S-20011/15/2024-TECH-Part(1), "QCO compliance exemption for Stainless steel flat (semi-finished) products."



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Ministry of Steel · October 28, 2026

The Ministry of Steel has exempted 162 grades of semi-finished stainless steel products covered under IS 14650 from quality control order (QCO) compliance until March 31, 2027. Its Technical Division issued the order, dated October 28, 2026, under file number S-20011/15/2024-TECH-Part(1), with the subject "QCO compliance exemption for Stainless steel flat (semi-finished) products." It issues with the approval of the Competent Authority and is signed by G. Sarathy Raja, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India. It is published on steel.gov.in, not in the Gazette.

The order gives its reason: IS 14650 "serves as an intermediate / input material" for three standards, IS 6911:2017, IS 5522: 2014 and IS 15997:2012, and also covers intermediate products of both carbon steel and stainless steel. It recalls that, on representations from MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), the Ministry granted QCO compliance exemption for stainless steel products under IS 6911, IS 5522 and IS 15997 till March 31, 2027, by S.O. 3300(E) dated June 20, 2026. The new exemption "shall be valid till 31st March 2027, co-terminus with the suspension of the Indian Standards for stainless steel final flat products, as notified in Para 2(b)" of S.O. 3300(E). Paragraph 2(b) made enforcement of those three standards, serial numbers 51, 52 and 53 of Schedule 1 of the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024, not operative for a period up to March 31, 2027. The same Schedule lists IS 14650 at serial number 89, as IS 14650: 1999, "Carbon Steel Cast Billet Ingots Billets Blooms and Slabs for Re-rolling purposes- Specification". Paragraph 7 of the 2024 Order applies a revision of a listed standard from the date the Bureau of Indian Standards publishes it.

The Annexure, "List of Indian Standard–wise Grades", lists the grades under the heading IS 14650:2023, numbered 1 to 162. Each is written as IS 14650, then CPS ("Corresponding Product Standard") and the number of one of the three standards, then a steel designation, for example "IS 14650 CPS 6911 /X06Cr19Ni9-304". Of the 162 grades, 153 are mapped to IS 6911 (serial numbers 1 to 153), 6 to IS 15997 (154 to 159) and 3 to IS 5522 (160 to 162).

The order continues the Ministry's order of the same file number dated April 27, 2026, whose subject was "QCO compliance exemption for Stainless steel flat (semi-finished and final) products." That order exempted stainless steel products covered under IS 6911, IS 5522, IS 15997 and "IS 14650 covering intermediate product of stainless steel flat products only", for imports with a bill of lading shipped-on-board date on or before October 26, 2026. Its Annexure listed 140 grades under IS 14650. On November 1, 2026, the Ministry's Quality Control Orders page no longer listed the April 27 order, and the entry under its title linked the October 28 order.

The October 28 order sets no other terms. It does not say who may use the exemption, whether it covers imports, domestic production or both, or from what date it applies, and it gives no bill of lading date. It sets no undertaking, quantity limit, end-use condition or reporting duty, names no authority to apply or report to, and lists no HS codes. It does not say what applies after March 31,

2027 or whether it replaces the April 27 order, and it says nothing more about the carbon steel products IS 14650 also covers. It does not name the quality control order it exempts from. Two of its paragraphs are numbered 3.

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| Issued by | Ministry of Steel (Technical Division) |
| Document | Order No. S-20011/15/2024-TECH-Part(1), "QCO compliance exemption for Stainless steel flat (semi-finished) products." |
| Dated | October 28, 2026 |
| Published | On steel.gov.in; not in the Gazette |
| Applies to | 162 grades of semi-finished stainless steel products covered under IS 14650, listed in the Annexure |
| Takes effect | Not stated |
| Valid till | March 31, 2027, co-terminus with the suspension of the Indian Standards for stainless steel final flat products under para 2(b) of S.O. 3300(E) |
| Grades by mapped standard | IS 6911: 153; IS 15997: 6; IS 5522: 3 |
| Reason given | IS 14650 serves as an intermediate / input material for IS 6911:2017, IS 5522: 2014 and IS 15997:2012 |
| Conditions | None stated: no undertaking, quantity limit, end-use condition, reporting duty or bill of lading date |
| Earlier order | Order of the same file number dated April 27, 2026, "QCO compliance exemption for Stainless steel flat (semi-finished and final) products.": IS 6911, IS 5522, IS 15997 and IS 14650 (intermediate product of stainless steel flat products only), for imports with a bill of lading shipped-on-board date on or before October 26, 2026; 140 IS 14650 grades in its Annexure |
| Related | S.O. 3300(E), June 20, 2026, para 2(b): enforcement of IS 5522, IS 6911 and IS 15997 (Schedule 1 serial numbers 51, 52 and 53) not operative for a period up to March 31, 2027 |
| IS 14650 in the 2024 QCO | Schedule 1, serial number 89: IS 14650: 1999, "Carbon Steel Cast Billet Ingots Billets Blooms and Slabs for Re-rolling purposes- Specification", with immediate effect (S.O. 3716(E), August 29, 2024) |
| Signed by | G. Sarathy Raja, Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India |

## The 162 grades by corresponding product standard

| Corresponding product standard | Annexure serial numbers | Grades |
|---|---|---|
| IS 6911:2017 | 1 to 153 | 153 |
| IS 15997:2012 | 154 to 159 | 6 |
| IS 5522: 2014 | 160 to 162 | 3 |
| Total | 1 to 162 | 162 |

The order (PDF, 612 KB)

Source: Ministry of Steel's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on November 1, 2026.

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