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BIS

BIS updates licence guidelines for refineries and mints

BIS guidelines of October 2026 set how gold and silver refineries and mints apply for, operate, renew and lose a BIS licence under IS 1417 and IS 2112.

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN Standards (BIS) has issued Guidelines for Grant, Operation, Renewal and Cancellation of Licence for Refinery or Mint, reference HM / Refinery or Mint/ Guidelines / 4, dated October 2026. The 11-page guidelines are to be read with the BIS Act 2016, the

BIS Rules 2018 and the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations 2018, whose Chapter III covers the licence for a refinery or mint. A situation the guidelines do not cover is to be dealt with by the BIS Regional Offices and Branch Offices under the Act, Rules and Regulations.

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Guidelines for Grant, Operation, Renewal and Cancellation of Licence for Refinery or Mint (HM / Refinery or Mint/ Guidelines / 4)



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They apply to any manufacturer refining gold by aqua-regia or electrolytic process, refining silver by electrolytic process, or minting gold and/or silver. The application is made online through the BIS website or e-BIS portal (manakonline.in) to the Branch Office with jurisdiction over the premises, with self-certified documents: proof of establishment and address, identity of the signatory, a location map with latitude and longitude, an MSME certificate if applicable, the process flow chart, design and weight of bullion or coins, machinery and test equipment lists in Forms IX and X, NABL or LBMA accreditation of the laboratory, plant layout, technical personnel, certified reference material and in-house test reports.

The applicant declares the sizes (weight) and fineness of the bullion and/or coins to be covered. A refinery or mint seeking licences for both gold and silver submits separate applications, which are processed independently, and separate licences are granted under IS 1417 and IS 2112. Licences are granted to use the Standard Mark under IS 1417:2016 for gold and IS 2112:2025 for silver. Before rejecting an application, BIS gives 14 days' notice citing the deficiencies. An applicant convicted under Section 29 of the BIS Act may not apply for one year from the conviction.

A hallmarking auditor nominated by the Branch Office carries out a preliminary inspection of two man-days, and applications are processed on factory testing in the refinery's or mint's own laboratory. For gold offered in 999 and 995 fineness, factory testing is done for 999 only; for silver, every fineness offered is tested. A verification sample from a different lot then goes to a BIS or empaneled laboratory for independent testing. The Head of the Branch Office grants the licence once infrastructure, competence and conformity are shown and the marking fee is paid. Grant is expected within 45 days where the visit is satisfactory and the sample conforms at the first instance.

During operation, a higher fineness grade, a new product type (bullion or coin) or a lower silver grade is added after a chargeable special visit; a lower gold grade or an additional size, design or weight may be added on a desktop basis. Inclusions are processed within 30 days, and before reducing a licence's scope the Branch Office gives the licensee one month's notice stating the reasons. A refinery listing under the Gold Monetization Scheme must have been in operation for at least one year, and cast bars from Collection and Purity Testing Centres are held for at least

48 hours before refining. Surveillance visits happen at least once a year; the renewal audit takes two man-days.

A failed surveillance sample leads to suspension, and a second failure to cancellation proceedings. A refinery or mint that disputes a result may ask for its counter sample to be tested at a BIS referral lab, paying double the testing charges in advance. The guidelines list further grounds for cancellation: using the hallmark on a process BIS did not approve, applying an unauthorized hallmark, hallmarking without the BIS Standard Mark and/or the refinery's name, unsettled financial dues or unredressed complaints, hallmarking in another refinery's name, and other unfair practices. Appeals against an order under Regulation 19 lie as prescribed in the BIS Rules 2018.

Issued by	Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Manak Bhawan, New Delhi
Document	Guidelines for Grant, Operation, Renewal and Cancellation of Licence for Refinery or Mint (HM / Refinery or Mint/ Guidelines / 4)
Dated	October 2026
Applies to	Gold refining by aqua-regia or electrolytic process, silver refining by electrolytic process, and minting of gold and/or silver
Standards	IS 1417:2016 (gold) and IS 2112:2025 (silver); separate licences for each
Read with	BIS Act 2016, BIS Rules 2018 and BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations 2018, Chapter III
Preliminary inspection	Two man-days (one auditor for two days)
Grant	Expected within 45 days of the application, if the factory visit is satisfactory and the sample conforms at the first instance
Inclusions	Processed within 30 days of the request
Surveillance	At least one inspection of each licensee a year, of one man-day

[The guidelines](#) (PDF, 206 KB)

Source: [BIS's own copy](#).

Checked against the official copy on October 20, 2026.

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