QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

# Furniture QCO exemptions: what's still open and what's closed

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ON NOVEMBER 8, 2026, SIX exemptions apply. The order's own provisos exempt export goods and the smallest Udyam-registered makers. S.O. 774(E) added research imports, declared old stock and imported inputs for export furniture, and S.O. 5950(E) exempts imports ordered by August 12, 2026. Imports by units and developers in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) fall under a separate foreign trade rule.

KEY FACTS

ORDER
S.O. 801(E) of 2025

IN FORCE SINCE
February 13, 2026

STANDARDS
IS 17631 to IS 17636

UPDATED
November 8, 2026

# Furniture QCO exemptions: what's still open and what's closed

Quality Control Orders · November 8, 2026

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## Which furniture QCO exemptions apply today?

On November 8, 2026, six exemptions apply. The order's own provisos exempt export goods and the smallest Udyam-registered makers. S.O. 774(E) added research imports, declared old stock and imported inputs for export furniture, and S.O. 5950(E) exempts imports ordered by August 12, 2026. Imports by units and developers in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) fall under a separate foreign trade rule.

A proviso is a condition attached to a rule. Every exemption in the order is a proviso to paragraph 2 of the furniture QCO (Quality Control Order), S.O. 801(E) of 2025. Paragraph 2 requires six kinds of furniture to meet their Indian Standards and carry the ISI mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Our tracker page for S.O. 801(E) lists every notification that changed it.

Every furniture QCO exemption on November 8, 2026

| Exemption | Notification and clause | Who can use it | Conditions | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Furniture made in India for export | S.O. 801(E) of 2025, paragraph 2, first proviso | Makers in India, for goods made for export | Only goods "manufactured domestically for export"; no paperwork named | Running; no end date |
| Small Udyam-registered makers | S.O. 777(E), Table S. No. 8 (replaces paragraph 2, third proviso) | An enterprise registered on the Udyam Portal | Up to ₹1 crore invested in plant and machinery or equipment, at original cost; up to ₹5 crore turnover in the previous financial year, certified by a Chartered Accountant | Running; limits raised February 13, 2026; no end date |
| Research imports | S.O. 774(E), paragraph 2, first inserted proviso | A furniture maker that holds a BIS licence or has applied for one | Up to 200 pieces a financial year; not sold commercially; disposed of as scrap; a year-wise record given to the Central Government | Running; no end date |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Declared old stock | S.O. 774(E), paragraph 2, second inserted proviso | A maker that holds a BIS licence or has applied for one | Stock made or imported before February 13, 2026; self-declaration to BIS; 12 months to sell or display | Running; twelve months from February 13, 2026, so to about mid-February 2027 by our count; no end date printed |
| Imported inputs for export furniture | S.O. 774(E), paragraph 2, third inserted proviso | A furniture maker in India, for furniture it exports | Signed self-declaration to the Central Government; undertaking not to put the goods to any other use or sell them in India; records for audit | Running; no end date |
| Imports ordered by August 12, 2026 | S.O. 5950(E), paragraph 2 (in place of the seventh and eighth provisos) | Importers of furniture | Purchase order on or before August 12, 2026; Bill of Lading issued on or before November 30, 2026; Bill of Entry issued on or before December 31, 2026; copies to BIS on signed letterhead within 7 days of clearance | Running since November 2, 2026; the last Bill of Entry date is December 31, 2026 |
| Eighteen months for micro and small enterprises | S.O. 801(E) of 2025, paragraph 2, second proviso | Micro and small enterprises as the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 defines them | Eighteen months from publication on February 14, 2025 | Closed about mid-August 2026 by our count; no end date printed |
| Imports shipped before February 13, 2026 | S.O. 1125(E), paragraph 2, first inserted proviso | Importers of furniture | Bill of Lading shows shipment before February 13, 2026; Bill of Entry within 180 days after that date | Closed about mid-August 2026 by our count; replaced by S.O. 5950(E) on November 2, 2026 |
| Imports ordered before February 13, 2026 | S.O. 1125(E), paragraph 2, second inserted proviso | Importers of furniture | Purchase order before February 13, 2026; Bill of Lading and Bill of Entry within 180 days; copies to BIS within 7 days of clearance | Closed in August 2026 by our count; replaced by S.O. 5950(E) on November 2, 2026 |
| Imports by SEZ units and developers | DGFT Notification 20/2026-27 (S.O. 2827(E)), Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, paragraph 2.03A(iii) | SEZ units and SEZ developers | Imported goods used for authorized operations inside the SEZ; those goods, or goods made from them, must meet the QCO when cleared into the rest of India | DGFT rule, outside the order; notification dated June 2, 2026, with immediate effect |

## Is furniture made in India for export exempt?

Yes. The first proviso to paragraph 2 of S.O. 801(E) of 2025 says "nothing in this order shall apply to goods or articles manufactured domestically for export". The exemption follows the goods, not the maker. Furniture made in India for sale here doesn't qualify, even when the same factory exports most of its output.

The export proviso asks for no paperwork and has no end date. Exporters can also import inputs without the mark under S.O. 774(E).

## Can you import furniture for research and development?

Yes, if you're a furniture maker that holds a BIS licence or has applied for one. S.O. 774(E) lets such a maker import up to 200 pieces of furniture a financial year for research and development. The pieces can't be sold commercially and must be scrapped. The maker sends the Central Government a year-wise record of them.

The first inserted proviso of S.O. 774(E) covers "upto two hundred numbers of goods or articles" a financial year, imported by a maker "certified by the Bureau" or one "who has applied". It isn't a general allowance for importers. A trader or retailer that doesn't make furniture can't use it, and the proviso names no form and no approval step.

## Can you still sell old furniture stock without the ISI mark?

Yes, if you're the maker, for twelve months from February 13, 2026. By our count, that's about mid-February 2027. Under S.O. 774(E), a maker that holds a BIS licence, or has applied for one,

may keep selling declared stock made or imported before February 13, 2026. It must send BIS a self-declaration.

> The second inserted proviso, as printed
>
> "such manufacturer shall be permitted to sell or display or offer to sell such declared stock up to twelve months from the date of implementation, subject to the condition that such manufacturer shall furnishes a self declaration to this effect to the Bureau"

- **No date to apply by.** The proviso covers a maker that holds a BIS licence or has applied for one, and doesn't say by when it must apply. Its only time limit is the twelve months to sell.
- **Makers only.** The proviso doesn't mention retailers, distributors or importers that don't make furniture. See our rules for selling furniture without the ISI mark.
- **No form found.** We haven't found a BIS form, portal or address for the self-declaration.
- **Counted, not printed.** The twelve months run from the "date of implementation", which S.O. 3417(E) records as February 13, 2026, so about mid-February 2027 is our count. Whether micro and small enterprises get a later date, and so a later end, isn't settled.

## Can exporters import parts without the ISI mark?

Yes, if you make furniture in India for export. S.O. 774(E) lets you import furniture, components or sub-assemblies without the BIS mark for your furniture exports. You send the Central Government a signed self-declaration with the invoice details, undertake not to put the goods to any other use or sell them in India, and keep records for audit.

The third inserted proviso covers "non-BIS marked goods or articles or its components/sub-assemblies imported by the manufacturer of furniture in India for export of furniture". Its conditions:

- A self-declaration on your letterhead, signed by your authorized signatory, to "the Central Government" (the proviso names no office).
- The invoice number and other relevant details of the import consignment.
- An undertaking that the goods won't be put to any other use or sold in the domestic market.
- Records of the goods and what you made from them, kept for verification or audit by the government authorities concerned.

## Are small furniture makers exempt?

Yes, if they're registered on the MSME Ministry's Udyam Portal and under both limits in S.O. 777(E). Investment in plant and machinery or equipment, at original cost, can be no more than ₹1 crore. Turnover in the previous financial year, as a Chartered Accountant certifies it, can be no more than ₹5 crore. The exemption has no end date.

These limits replaced ₹25 lakh and ₹2 crore on February 13, 2026. S.O. 777(E) also dropped the word "domestically" from the proviso. It doesn't say whether that brings imports in, and Udyam registration is for Indian enterprises. See our furniture QCO rules for MSMEs.

## Which furniture imports are exempt under S.O. 5950(E)?

S.O. 5950(E) of November 2, 2026 exempts imports ordered on or before August 12, 2026. The Bill of Lading must be issued by November 30, 2026 and the Bill of Entry by December 31, 2026. The importer sends BIS copies within seven days of clearance. It replaced the two S.O. 1125(E) windows.

The new proviso, as printed

"Provided also that nothing in this Order shall apply to import of goods or articles, where the purchase order for such goods or articles was placed on or before the 12th August, 2026, the Bill of the Lading is issued on or before the 30th November, 2026 and the Bill of Entry is issued on or before the 31st December, 2026 and in such cases, the importer shall provide a copy of the purchase order, the Bill of Lading and Bill of Entry along with other supporting documents in its letter head duly signed by its authorised signatory to the Bureau within seven days of clearance of such consignment."

The import proviso in force since November 2, 2026, and the two it replaced

| Proviso | Condition | Paperwork | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| S.O. 5950(E), paragraph 2 | Purchase order placed on or before August 12, 2026; Bill of Lading issued on or before November 30, 2026; Bill of Entry issued on or before December 31, 2026 | Purchase order, Bill of Lading, Bill of Entry and other supporting documents to BIS, on letterhead signed by an authorized signatory, within 7 days of clearance | Running since November 2, 2026, the day it was published |
| S.O. 1125(E), first inserted proviso (shipped before February 13, 2026) | Bill of Lading shows shipment before February 13, 2026; Bill of Entry on or before 180 days after that date | Bill of Lading and Bill of Entry; nothing to send BIS under this proviso | Closed about mid-August 2026 by our count; replaced November 2, 2026 |
| S.O. 1125(E), second inserted proviso (ordered before February 13, 2026) | Purchase order placed before February 13, 2026; Bill of Lading and Bill of Entry dated within 180 days from the date "the said order came into force" | Purchase order, Bill of Lading, Bill of Entry and supporting documents to BIS, on signed letterhead, within 7 days of clearance | Closed in August 2026 by our count; replaced November 2, 2026 |

The new proviso prints its own dates, so it no longer depends on the undefined "date of implementation". It reaches orders placed after February 13, 2026, up to August 12, 2026. It came into force on publication and doesn't say whether it covers goods cleared before November 2, 2026.

Under S.O. 1125(E), by our count, both 180-day windows had closed in August 2026, whether the second ran from February 13 or March 2, 2026.

Furniture ordered after August 12, 2026, or arriving too late for these dates, needs the ISI mark unless another exemption covers it. See how to import furniture into India under the BIS rules.

## Are SEZ units exempt from the furniture QCO?

Partly. Since Notification 20/2026-27 of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), dated June 2, 2026, SEZ units and developers are exempt from QCOs for goods imported for authorized operations inside the zone. Those goods, and goods made from them, must meet the QCOs in force when they're cleared from the SEZ into the domestic tariff area.

The domestic tariff area is the rest of India. This Foreign Trade Policy rule (paragraph 2.03A(iii), S.O. 2827(E)) isn't part of the furniture order. The unit or developer gives an undertaking to the SEZ's Development Commissioner when it imports.

## What isn't exempt from the furniture QCO?

Anything no proviso names. Paragraph 2 of S.O. 801(E) covers all six kinds of furniture, and its provisos are the order's only exceptions. Custom pieces, project supplies, handmade furniture, trade-fair samples and goods from a supplier that has only applied to BIS all need the ISI mark under a licence, unless an exemption on this page covers them.

- **Custom or made-to-order furniture.** No proviso carves out custom work. A carpenter or interior firm needs the Udyam exemption, or another proviso on this page, to sell without the mark.
- **Hotel, office and project supplies.** The order and its amendments have no project or contract exemption, so a hotel's chairs need the mark too.
- **Handmade, artisan or GI-tagged (Geographical Indication) furniture.** No proviso exempts it. The 2023 draft India notified to the WTO (G/TBT/N/IND/318, September 27, 2023) had no such exemption either.
- **Trade-fair and display samples.** The order has no proviso for samples. The nearest is a maker's research imports, which can't be sold. Customs' own rules for fair goods aren't covered here.
- **Goods from a supplier that has only applied.** Paragraph 2 needs the mark under a licence. An application counts only for research imports and declared old stock.
- **One-off designs not made in India.** The order has no exemption for them. The other route is permission from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026, S.O. 3417(E). Only a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 can get it. That company then buys from makers that hold a BIS Scheme II licence, and the goods must still meet their Indian Standards.

Two general orders of February 13, 2026, S.O. 775(E) and S.O. 776(E), gave 180-day import windows under 26 other QCOs. Neither mentions furniture.

## Frequently asked questions

### Do I need BIS's approval to use an exemption?

None of the provisos describes an approval step. Old stock and imports under S.O. 5950(E) need papers sent to BIS, and imported export inputs a self-declaration to the Central Government. Research imports need a year-wise record given to the Central Government, and the Udyam test a Chartered Accountant's certificate of turnover.

### When exactly does the old-stock window end?

No date is printed. S.O. 774(E) allows twelve months from the date of implementation, which DPIIT records as February 13, 2026, so by our count the window ends about mid-February 2027.

### Can a medium enterprise use any of these exemptions?

Yes. The export, research-import, old-stock, export-input and purchase-order import provisos don't depend on size. Only the Udyam exemption does, and the eighteen months for micro and small enterprises never covered medium ones.

## Sources


- S.O. 801(E) of 2025: Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2025 (Gazette of India, February 14, 2025) (PDF, 1.7 MB)
- S.O. 774(E): Furniture (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026 (Gazette of India, February 13, 2026) (PDF, 668 KB)
- S.O. 777(E): amendment of eight Quality Control Orders, furniture at S. No. 8 (Gazette of India, February 13, 2026) (PDF, 777 KB)
- S.O. 1125(E): Furniture (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2026 (Gazette of India, March 2, 2026) (PDF, 605 KB)
- S.O. 5950(E): Furniture (Quality Control) Third Amendment Order, 2026 (Gazette of India, November 2, 2026) (PDF, 602 KB)

- S.O. 3417(E): Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026 (Gazette of India, June 25, 2026) (PDF, 746 KB)
- S.O. 775(E): exemption for imports shipped before implementation, 26 QCOs (Gazette of India, February 13, 2026) (PDF, 724 KB)
- S.O. 776(E): exemption for imports ordered before implementation, 26 QCOs (Gazette of India, February 13, 2026) (PDF, 724 KB)
- DGFT Notification No. 20/2026-27 (S.O. 2827(E)): QCOs on imports by SEZ units and developers, June 2, 2026 (PDF, 561 KB)
- WTO G/TBT/N/IND/318: India's draft Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2023, notified September 27, 2023 (PDF, 56 KB)

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