QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

BIS certification for foreign furniture manufacturers (FMCS)

BIS certification for foreign furniture manufacturers runs through BIS's Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS). Your factory applies on Manak Online, names an Authorized Indian Representative, hosts BIS's inspection, has samples tested in India and gives a USD 10,000 bank guarantee after grant. BIS says grant generally takes six months.

FMCS IS BIS'S certification scheme for a foreign manufacturer that wants a BIS licence. Since February 13, 2026, the furniture QCO has required six products to carry the ISI mark under a Scheme-I licence, imports included (FMCS FAQ 2). Apart from a few exemptions, your factory needs its own licence.

KEY FACTS

ORDER
S.O. 801(E) of 2025

IN FORCE SINCE
February 13, 2026

STANDARDS
IS 17631 to IS 17636

UPDATED
October 28, 2026



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Quality Control Orders · October 28, 2026

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What is FMCS?

FMCS is BIS's certification scheme for a foreign manufacturer that wants a BIS licence. Since February 13, 2026, the furniture QCO has required six products to carry the ISI mark under a Scheme-I licence, imports included (FMCS FAQ 2). Apart from a few exemptions, your factory needs its own licence.

The furniture QCO, S.O. 801(E) of 2025, covers work chairs, general purpose chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds (IS 17631 to IS 17636). Clause 2 requires each to meet its Indian Standard and carry the ISI mark. Scheme-I is BIS's ISI mark scheme.

India told the WTO on June 25, 2025 that QCO conformity assessment "applies to both domestic and foreign manufacturers" (WTO trade concern 828). See BIS licences in India, including FMCS.

How do foreign furniture manufacturers get BIS certification?

A foreign furniture factory gets a BIS licence in seven steps. You name an Authorized Indian Representative, apply online, pay, host BIS's inspection and send BIS's samples to a lab in India. After grant, you sign an agreement and an indemnity bond and give a USD 10,000 bank guarantee.

1. Name an Authorized Indian Representative (AIR).

It's mandatory; you name the AIR when you apply (FMCS FAQ 5).

2. Apply on Manak Online.

It's online only since June 1, 2026 (How to apply). One application covers one product and standard, at one factory (FAQ 13).

3. Pay the fees.

₹1,000 to apply; the FMCS fee list also asks for a ₹10,000 contingency fund.

4. Host BIS's inspection.

BIS inspects the factory and draws samples (grant of licence page). The visit normally lasts two days (BIS guidelines, February 25, 2026, para 5(a)).

5. Send the samples to India.

Send them to a BIS or BIS-recognized lab in India and pay for the tests (FAQ 11).

6. Pay, sign and give the guarantee.

Before grant, pay the licence fee and advance minimum marking fee. After grant, sign an agreement and an indemnity bond and give a USD 10,000 performance bank guarantee (PBG) from a bank with an RBI-approved branch in India.

7. Mark the goods and keep the licence.

The licence runs one to two years, renewable for up to five. Report production and dispatches monthly or quarterly (grant of licence page), and extend the PBG at each renewal (renewal page).

Who can be your Authorized Indian Representative?

Your Authorized Indian Representative must live in India. BIS wants the head or a senior person of your Indian branch or office; without one, any qualifying Indian resident. A foreign national who works in your Indian office and lives in India also qualifies (FMCS FAQ 6 and 7; AIR page).

BIS's AIR page (updated February 5, 2026) says the AIR is at least a graduate and is named in the licence. The AIR can't have a conflict of interest in sample testing. The AIR helps BIS draw market samples from marked imports. If the AIR doesn't cooperate, BIS can suspend or cancel the licence.

An AIR acts for one manufacturer only, except within a group of companies or as a related importer (FAQ 6). A related importer can be your AIR but can't apply for your licence (FAQ 17). See how to import furniture into India.

Will BIS inspect your factory, and where are samples tested?

Yes. India told the WTO on June 25, 2025 that factory inspection is mandatory for a Scheme-I licence. BIS draws samples during the visit for a BIS or BIS-recognized lab in India. Only test reports to the Indian Standard count (FMCS FAQ 10), not EN, ISO or BIFMA reports.

> BIS FMCS FAQ 11
>
> "The sample drawn by BIS shall be sent to Laboratory in India by the applicant firm. The actual testing charges shall be borne by the applicant firm."

FAQ 11 also rules out a lab in your own country, even one approved under ILAC or APLAC. Every foreign application goes through option 1, a factory visit with samples for a third-party lab (grant guidelines, paras 3(c) and 3(f)).

BIS's LIMS directory listed 16 to 18 recognized labs for each furniture standard on October 28, 2026.

How long does FMCS take for furniture?

BIS says grant generally takes six months from the date it records your complete application (FMCS FAQ 12). It varies with your replies to BIS, the inspection, moving the samples and paying the dues. India's June 2025 statement to the WTO adds visas to that list.

BIS records the application as complete after its checks and your answers (grant of licence page). Delays from gaps or late replies are yours (How to apply, note 2).

What does FMCS cost a furniture factory?

BIS charges a foreign factory ₹1,000 to apply and ₹7,000 per man-day for each visit, plus ticket, visa, insurance and per-diem charges. Add a ₹10,000 contingency fund, a ₹1,000 annual licence fee, the marking fee and lab charges, in US dollars outside SAARC countries (FMCS fee list).

The marking fee depends on the standard: see every fee BIS charges, by product and size.

Do family grouping and the in-house lab change apply to foreign factories?

BIS's January 2026 product manuals group models into families for Scheme-I licences, which FMCS grants, and the FMCS fee list prices new models per group. The laboratory rule is less clear: BIS dropped the in-house laboratory requirement on December 16, 2025, but its FMCS eligibility page still lists in-factory testing.

Each of the six manuals lets you test one lead model, the most adverse, for a family with the same essential parameters (Annex A; for work chairs, PM/IS 17631/3). None mentions FMCS. See getting a BIS licence for furniture.

Circular CMD-I/2:4:1, from BIS's Central Marks Department-I, says there is "no obligation to maintain in-house laboratory" and doesn't exclude furniture. BIS's FMCS Who can apply page, updated December 23, 2025, still asks for "arrangements/equipments in their factory premises for testing". No BIS document we've read reconciles the two.

India told the WTO in June 2025 that makers can send raw-material and durability tests to a third-party lab.

Does a BIS licence for one product cover your other furniture?

No. BIS needs a separate application for each product and Indian Standard, at each factory location (FMCS FAQ 13 and 14). Work chairs and tables are two applications, and a plywood licence doesn't cover furniture. A second brand of the same product needs only an undertaking (FAQ 15).

FMCS applications a furniture factory needs

Your situation	Applications	Source
Work chairs (IS 17631) and tables (IS 17633), one factory	2 applications	FMCS FAQ 13
One product made at two factories	2 applications	FMCS FAQ 14
One product under two brands, one factory	1 application, plus an undertaking	FMCS FAQ 15
New models of a licensed product	0 new applications; ask BIS to include them	FMCS inclusion page

A licence is valid only for the varieties named in it (FAQ 19).

How many foreign furniture factories hold a BIS licence?

We haven't found a current count. India told the WTO on June 25, 2025 that BIS had received no FMCS application for furniture. BIS's FMCS licensee lists, by country and by Indian Standard, would show today's figure, but they were unavailable when we tried on October 28, 2026.

India's words: "So far BIS has not received any application for Furniture under the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme" (WTO trade concern 828). We name no licensee: check BIS's FMCS licensee page before relying on any claim.

How do India's furniture standards compare with EN, ISO and BIFMA?

India says most strength, stability and durability requirements in its furniture standards are harmonized with ISO and EN, except the low-requirement 'careful use' category, which it left out. India also told the WTO the standards don't restrict dimensions or designs, which a maker and buyer may agree.

India said this at the WTO in November 2024 and June 2025, adding that makers already using BIFMA "would not have any problem conforming". That's India's view, not a test result. The European Union raised the order as a WTO trade concern (ID 828).

Can you supply India through an Indian company instead?

Yes, with DPIIT's permission under S.O. 3417(E), the Transition Facilitation Order. Only a company incorporated under India's Companies Act, 2013 can apply and may rely on its parent or group company's credentials. Your factory needs a BIS Scheme II licence, held only to supply a permitted company. Applications run 24 months from June 25, 2026, to about late June 2028.

Clause 4(1)(a) of S.O. 3417(E) names "a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013", so a factory abroad can't hold the permission. DPIIT's guidelines (paras 2.5 and 2.6) ask for board declarations from the group company, three years of audited accounts and evidence of control over design and manufacture.

Clause 3(2) limits the Scheme II licence to supplying "the person who has been granted specific permission". See the Transition Facilitation Order for furniture.

What will your Indian buyers check?

The BIS Act makes an Indian distributor or seller check that marked goods come from a licence holder and carry BIS's labels and marking. So expect buyers to check that your licence is valid and covers the product, its standard and your factory. You stay responsible for every marked piece.

That's section 18 of the BIS Act, 2016. Anyone can check a certification on BIS's public dashboards or free BIS CARE app (Rajya Sabha answer, August 19, 2025). Your importer's side is in the importer's checklist.

To talk through your factory's case, contact our desk or see our regulatory and trade advisory service.

Frequently asked questions

Can we pay BIS in rupees?

Only from a SAARC country, in rupees with GST or in US dollars. Everyone else pays the US dollar equivalent. Bank charges and exchange-rate differences are yours to cover (FMCS fee list, Notes 1 and 2).

Can we still apply on paper?

No. BIS took paper FMCS applications only to May 31, 2026; since June 1, 2026, it's Manak Online only (How to apply page).

How often will BIS visit after grant, and who pays?

BIS's FMCS pages don't say how often. Each surveillance visit checks the licence, tests in the factory and draws samples (Operation of licence page). You pay for each as a special visit: ₹7,000 per man-day plus ticket, visa, insurance and per-diem charges (FMCS fee list).

How do we add new models?

Send BIS test reports from a BIS-recognized lab, no more than 90 days old, and pay ₹5,000 per variety or group (FMCS inclusion page; fee list B-6). BIS's January 2026 manuals add that a model joining a tested family, less adverse than its lead model, needs no inclusion charge (PM/IS 17631/3, Annex A, para 5).

Sources

- BIS, Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme: frequently asked questions, FAQ 1 to 19 (page dated December 13, 2021)
- BIS, FMCS list of fees to be charged from applicant and licensee (PDF) (PDF, 129 KB)
- BIS, FMCS: grant of licence (updated January 14, 2021)
- BIS, FMCS: how to apply (updated May 12, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: who can apply (updated December 23, 2025)
- BIS, FMCS: nomination of AIR (updated February 5, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: operation of licence (updated January 14, 2021)
- BIS, FMCS: inclusion of new varieties (updated February 3, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: renewal of licence (updated February 3, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS: licensee lists, by country and by Indian Standard (unavailable when tried, October 28, 2026)
- BIS, FMCS overview (updated February 18, 2026)
- BIS, Guidelines for Grant of Licence under Scheme-I, February 25, 2026 (PDF) (PDF, 472 KB)
- BIS circular CMD-I/2:4:1 of December 16, 2025: in-house laboratory requirement (PDF, 75 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17631/3, January 2026: work chairs (IS 17631) (PDF, 979 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17632/3, January 2026: general purpose chairs and stools (IS 17632) (PDF, 980 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17633/3, January 2026: tables and desks (IS 17633) (PDF, 878 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17634/3, January 2026: storage units (IS 17634) (PDF, 921 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17635/2, January 2026: beds (IS 17635) (PDF, 993 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17636/2, January 2026: bunk beds (IS 17636) (PDF, 988 KB)
- BIS LIMS: recognized laboratories by Indian Standard (read October 28, 2026)

- WTO, specific trade concern 828: India, Furniture (Quality Control) Order, with India's statements of November 5, 2024 and June 25, 2025
- S.O. 801(E) of 2025, Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2025 (Gazette, February 14, 2025) (PDF, 1.7 MB)
- S.O. 3417(E), Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026 (Gazette, June 25, 2026) (PDF, 746 KB)
- DPIIT, Guidelines for Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026 (PDF) (PDF, 194 KB)
- Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (PDF) (PDF, 133 KB)
- Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2938, August 19, 2025 (PDF)

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