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QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

IS 17631 to IS 17636: the six furniture standards explained

IS 17631 to IS 17636 are the six Indian Standards in India's furniture QCO. They cover work chairs (IS 17631), general purpose chairs and stools (IS 17632), tables and desks (IS 17633), storage units (IS 17634), beds (IS 17635) and bunk beds (IS 17636). Other furniture isn't under this order, though motorized furniture and non-domestic upholstery have their own orders.

THE FURNITURE QCO, S.O. 801(E) of 2025, covers six products: work chairs, general purpose chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds. Each must meet its Indian Standard and carry the Standard Mark, the ISI mark, under a BIS licence. The order has applied since February 13, 2026.

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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Which six products does the furniture QCO cover?

The furniture QCO, S.O. 801(E) of 2025, covers six products: work chairs, general purpose chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds. Each must meet its Indian Standard and carry the Standard Mark, the ISI mark, under a BIS licence. The order has applied since February 13, 2026.

Our furniture QCO guide covers who must comply, dates and exemptions; our tracker page for S.O. 801(E) holds the order and its amendments.

The six standards in the furniture QCO

Product	Standard as S.O. 801(E) prints it	Current BIS product manual	Family grouped by	Samples sent to the lab
Work chairs	17631:2022	PM/IS 17631/3, January 2026	Reclining, castors, footrest, maximum user mass, weekly usage hours	2 chairs (clauses 4, 5, 7)
General purpose chairs and stools	17632:2022	PM/IS 17632/3, January 2026	Chair or stool, Type 1 or Type 2, castors, footrest	2 chairs (clauses 4, 5, 7)
Tables and desks	17633:2022	PM/IS 17633/3, January 2026	Office or domestic table, castors, fixed or adjustable height	2 tables or desks (clauses 4, 5, 7)
Storage units	17634:2022	PM/IS 17634/3, January 2026	Test Level 1, 2 or 3, castors, seating surface	1 unit (clauses 4, 5, 7)
Beds	17635:2022	PM/IS 17635/2, January 2026	Headboard or not, storage or not	2 beds (clauses 4, 5, 7)
Bunk beds	17636:2022	PM/IS 17636/2, January 2026	Storage or not	2 bunk beds (clauses 4, 5, 7)

The Note to the order's Table applies "the latest version of Indian Standards including the amendments thereof", so a BIS amendment changes the rule without a new order.

BIS circulars dated June 18, 2025 (tables and desks) to December 16, 2025 (bunk beds) announced India's first licences under five of these standards.

What does IS 17631 cover (work chairs)?

IS 17631:2022 covers work chairs, made-up or ready-to-assemble. BIS groups them into families by reclining, castors and footrest, plus the maximum user mass and weekly usage hours the maker declares. IS 17631 replaced the two older standards for metal office chairs, IS 3499 (Part 1) and (Part 2).

PM/IS 17631/3 also asks for a drawing of each model showing armrests, any locking device, load-bearing material and overall size (Annex A, para 2). The old IS 3499 parts, titled metal chairs for office purposes in BIS's fee list, stood withdrawn after September 21, 2023.

Gaming, executive and ergonomic chairs don't appear in the manual, which sorts chairs by construction, not trade name. The standard's scope clause isn't quoted here, so ask BIS, with the drawing, whether a borderline chair falls under IS 17631 or IS 17632.

What does IS 17632 cover (general purpose chairs and stools)?

IS 17632:2022 covers general purpose chairs and stools in two types. Type 1 is "dining, folding, easy chairs or stools, etc. for domestic use". Type 2 is "Training, conference, visitors cafeteria chairs and stools, including highchairs etc, for institutional use". Since Amendment No. 1, the maker marks the Type on each product.

BIS groups these chairs and stools by product (chair or stool), Type, castors and footrest (Annex A, para 3). The manual doesn't sort chairs by material or name bar stools, outdoor chairs or camping chairs. For those, the standard's scope clause decides.

What does IS 17633 cover (tables and desks)?

IS 17633:2022 covers tables and desks in two performance categories. Office tables cover office work areas, meeting tables and pantry tables. Domestic tables cover bedroom, living room, study and "other domestic uses". Fixed and adjustable-height models are both in scope, with or without castors, made-up or ready-to-assemble.

Height-adjustable desks, such as sit-stand desks, are in the manual as a construction type. The lead model must be the family's most adverse, down to its maximum length, width and height (Annex A, para 3).

What does IS 17634 cover (storage units)?

IS 17634:2022 covers storage units at three test levels: domestic (Test Level 1), institutional light (Test Level 2) and institutional heavy (Test Level 3). Units may stand free or be mounted to the building. IS 17634 replaced three older steel standards: IS 3312, IS 3314 and IS 7761.

The drawing shows the unit's maximum height, door type (pivoted, sliding, roll-front or flap) and whether it stands free or is mounted (Annex A, para 3). The old standards, titled steel shelving cabinets, steel clothes lockers and steel book cases in BIS's fee list, stood withdrawn after September 21, 2023.

The words wardrobe, almirah, cupboard and kitchen cabinet don't appear in the manual. Whether a built-in wardrobe or fitted kitchen cabinet counts turns on the standard's scope clause, not quoted here.

What does IS 17635 cover (beds)?

IS 17635:2022 covers "beds for adults for domestic and non-domestic use", made-up or ready-to-assemble. BIS groups beds into families by headboard and storage. Under the January 2026 manual, one tested lead model covers its family. The December 2022 manual had tested every design on its own.

The December 2022 manual was PM/IS 17635/1. BIS's circular of January 5, 2026 says the revised manual changes its scope, grouping guidelines and testing scheme.

Hospital beds, children's beds and sofa-beds aren't mentioned; the manual says "beds for adults". Any exclusion would sit in the standard's scope clause, not quoted here, so check a borderline bed with BIS first.

What does IS 17636 cover (bunk beds)?

IS 17636 covers "bunk beds for domestic and non-domestic use", made-up or ready-to-assemble. BIS groups them by one feature, with or without storage, and one tested lead model covers its family. S.O. 801(E) cites IS 17636:2022, while BIS's January 2026 manual cites IS 17636:2021.

BIS's first-licence circular of December 16, 2025 also names IS 17636:2022. BIS's portal lists the January 2026 manual under both years, and the manual shows no amendments. None explains the difference, so check with BIS before testing.

Are sofas, recliners and other seats covered?

S.O. 801(E) lists six products, and no sofa, settee or recliner is one of them. Furniture with electrically motorized parts is item 81 of a separate order, S.O. 1739(E). Non-domestic upholstery falls under S.O. 3916(E). Whether a seat without a motor falls within IS 17632, whose Type 1 includes "easy chairs", depends on that standard's scope clause.

S.O. 1739(E) covers motorized furniture, item 81, from October 1, 2026 (later for small and micro enterprises). Its clause 1(3) leaves out appliances under any other QCO, without saying how that applies to a motorized chair or bed. See our guide to motorized furniture under the appliances QCO.

S.O. 3916(E), a Ministry of Textiles order in force since September 12, 2024, requires upholstered composites used in non-domestic furniture to meet IS 15768. A maker of upholstered furniture for homes complies by declaring it's for domestic use (Note (3)). See BIS rules for furniture materials and upholstery.

What changed in IS 17631 to IS 17636 in January 2026?

Two BIS changes took effect in January 2026. BIS circulars of January 5, 2026 set January 9, 2026 as the last date to implement Amendment No. 1 to IS 17631 to IS 17635. BIS also put new product manuals for all six standards on its portal, testing one lead model per family, beds and bunk beds included.

Sources: BIS circulars CMD-III/16 of January 5, 2026, and the January 2026 manuals (last row).

Amendment No. 1 and the January 2026 manuals

Standard	What changed	What a licensee must do
IS 17631, work chairs	Castor conformity rule and rigid-surface tests removed (clauses 4.3, 6.1)	No action, per BIS's circular
IS 17632, chairs and stools	Type 1 or Type 2 marked on the product; rigid-surface tests removed (clause 6.1)	Confirm the Type marking to BIS

IS 17633, tables and desks	Performance category marked (clause 9.1); main-surface stability load cut from 200 N to 100 N; no vertical-load durability test above 965 mm; mechanical damage test removed	Confirm the marking to BIS
IS 17634, storage units	More marking (clause 9.1); mechanical damage test removed; cloth rail deflection relaxed; tests on a series of units allowed	Confirm the marking to BIS
IS 17635, beds	Mechanical damage test removed; lower strength-test static loads (Table 3); vertical impact test cut from 20 drops to 1	No action, per BIS's circular
All six, January 2026 manuals	Families share essential parameters; the most adverse model leads; beds and bunk beds grouped too	To add a model, send BIS its drawing and reasons; no inclusion charge if BIS finds it less adverse than the tested lead model

The June 2025 manuals for IS 17631 to IS 17634 kept a family's sizes within 10% of the lead model's, with height groups for storage units. The January 2026 manuals drop those limits.

The new manuals sit on BIS's standards portal, uploaded January 5 to 12, 2026. On October 28, 2026, BIS's product manual page on bis.gov.in still linked the June 2025 and December 2022 versions.

IndusDesk worked on these rules: with FICCI, we gathered input from furniture makers and represented to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and DPIIT. Our licence guide explains how family grouping works when you apply.

How does BIS test furniture for a licence?

BIS tests a sample of each family's lead model, and the result covers the family. For a licence, the lab gets 2 pieces of most products, or 1 storage unit, for design, dimensions and safety (clauses 4, 5 and 7). Surface materials tested under clause 6 must meet IS 17637.

The surface materials are fabric and leather for chairs, rigid surfaces for tables and desks, and both for storage units, beds and bunk beds (product manuals, para 2(a)).

In a day at the factory, a BIS officer or authorized auditor can witness design and workmanship, dimensions, and stability and strength tests. Storage units add every other clause 7 test but durability, and bunk beds add the safety barriers, gaps, bed base, ladder and fastenings (product manuals, para 5).

Since December 16, 2025, BIS hasn't required an in-house laboratory (circular CMD-I/2:4:1). India told the WTO on June 25, 2025 that three laboratories were recognized for furniture. On October 28, 2026, BIS's laboratory directory listed 16 to 18 recognized laboratories for each standard.

India also told the WTO that most strength, stability and durability requirements match ISO and EN standards, except a low "careful use" category the Indian standards leave out.

What must be marked on certified furniture?

Each certified piece carries the Standard Mark, the ISI mark, under the maker's BIS licence (S.O. 801(E), para 2). BIS's product manuals add the model name and the line "For BIS certification details please visit www.bis.gov.in". Amendment No. 1 added marking for IS 17632, IS 17633 and IS 17634.

- The Standard Mark from the licence, marked "legibly and indelibly" on each piece (product manuals, Annex C, para 3).
- The marking in the standard's own clause: clause 9 of IS 17631 to IS 17634, clause 10 of IS 17635 and IS 17636 (para 3.1), not quoted here.
- The model name on the product, and the website line on the product or package (paras 3.1, 3.2).

Under section 18(3) of the BIS Act, 2016, a seller must check that marked goods carry the labels and marking BIS specifies before selling or displaying them.

Frequently asked questions

Is ready-to-assemble furniture covered?

Yes. Each January 2026 product manual says its standard applies to fully made and ready-to-assemble units (Annex A, para 1).

Is office and institutional furniture covered?

Yes, when it's one of the six products: IS 17632's Type 2 is for institutional use, IS 17633 includes office tables and IS 17634 has two institutional test levels. IS 17635 and IS 17636 cover non-domestic beds and bunk beds. The manuals don't mention school furniture, so ask BIS about classroom pieces.

Do the standards limit sizes or designs?

No, India told the WTO on June 25, 2025. It said IS 3663 is referred to for dimensions, but "there are no restrictions on dimensions and designs". Maker and buyer may agree on them.

Which version of each standard applies?

The latest version, with every amendment BIS notifies, under the Note to the Table in S.O. 801(E). For IS 17631 to IS 17635 that includes Amendment No. 1, which BIS told licensees to implement by January 9, 2026.

Sources

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- BIS product manual PM/IS 17632/3, January 2026: general purpose chairs and stools (IS 17632) (PDF, 980 KB)
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- BIS, All India First Licence circular for IS 17633, June 18, 2025 (PDF, 695 KB)
- BIS, All India First Licence circular for IS 17631, August 20, 2025 (PDF, 651 KB)
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- BIS, All India First Licence circular for IS 17636, December 16, 2025 (PDF, 679 KB)
- S.O. 1739(E) of 2026, Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2026, item 81 (PDF, 1.2 MB)
- S.O. 3916(E) of 2024, Protective Textiles Quality Control (Upholstered Composites used for Non-Domestic Furniture) Order, 2024 (PDF, 1.7 MB)
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