QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

Selling furniture without the ISI mark: rules for shops and sellers

Selling furniture without the ISI mark, or storing or displaying it for sale, is barred for the furniture QCO's six products. A shop or online seller doesn't need its own BIS licence. Two exceptions matter: furniture from the smallest Udyam-registered makers, and declared old stock that a licensed or applicant maker may sell for twelve months from February 13, 2026.

NO, NOT THE SIX covered products, unless an exemption covers the goods. Section 17(1) of the BIS Act, 2016 bars anyone from selling, hiring, storing or displaying them for sale without the Standard Mark under a licence. Since February 13, 2026, that covers work chairs, chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds.

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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Can a shop sell furniture without the ISI mark?

No, not the six covered products, unless an exemption covers the goods. Section 17(1) of the BIS Act, 2016 bars anyone from selling, hiring, storing or displaying them for sale without the Standard Mark under a licence. Since February 13, 2026, that covers work chairs, chairs and stools, tables and desks, storage units, beds and bunk beds.

Section 17(1) says "No person shall manufacture, import, distribute, sell, hire, lease, store or exhibit for sale" goods under a section 16 order "without a Standard Mark, except under a valid licence". The furniture QCO, S.O. 801(E) of 2025, is such an order. The ISI mark is BIS's Standard Mark.

The Act's definition of a person names "a manufacturer, an importer, a distributor, retailer, seller or lessor" (section 2(25)).

For sellers, two exceptions matter: furniture from a Udyam-registered maker within ₹1 crore of investment and ₹5 crore of turnover (S.O. 777(E)) and a licensed or applicant maker's declared old stock, covered below.

Does a furniture retailer need its own BIS licence?

No. BIS grants a licence to a manufacturer after assessing how it makes and tests the product. One licence covers one product and one Indian Standard (BIS FAQ Q5 and Q24). A furniture shop needs ISI-marked stock instead, and its own duties sit in section 18 of the BIS Act, 2016.

- **Section 18(2).** The seller must make sure marked goods "are purchased from certified body or licence holder".

- **Section 18(3).** Before selling or displaying them, the seller must make sure they "bear the requisite labels and marking details, as specified by the Bureau".

Buy through a wholesaler and the licence is still the maker's, shown by the mark and licence number on each piece. If you import, see what importers must check.

Can you sell furniture you bought before February 13, 2026?

Only in narrow cases: furniture from the smallest Udyam-registered makers is outside the order. S.O. 774(E) lets a licensed or applicant maker sell declared stock made or imported before February 13, 2026 for twelve months, to about mid-February 2027. It names the maker, not shops. Unmarked stock from any other maker has no window.

- **A licensed or applicant maker's stock.** The maker may "sell or display or offer to sell such declared stock" for twelve months, if it sends BIS a self-declaration (S.O. 774(E), paragraph 2, second inserted proviso). It doesn't say whether a shop that bought it may sell it on.
- **A maker that never applied.** No proviso covers its stock, so section 17(1) bars selling or displaying it.
- **An exempt Udyam maker.** The order doesn't apply to furniture from a Udyam-registered maker with up to ₹1 crore of plant and machinery and up to ₹5 crore of turnover. It doesn't say how a seller checks that.

The twelve months run from February 13, 2026, the implementation date S.O. 3417(E) records. The order prints no end date; by our count they end about mid-February 2027. See every furniture QCO exemption.

Where IndusDesk fits

If you hold unmarked stock and this page doesn't settle it, ask our desk about your stock.

Do online sellers need ISI-marked furniture?

Yes. Section 17(1) of the BIS Act, 2016 covers selling, storing and displaying for sale, with no exception for any sales channel or fulfillment model. In March 2026, the government told Parliament BIS had run 79 search and seizure operations at e-commerce sellers and warehouses in the last three years.

Some sellers hear the mark matters only when a marketplace stores their stock; neither the order nor the Act says so. The answer doesn't break the 79 down by product (Rajya Sabha question 1961, March 10, 2026).

Do furniture rental companies need ISI-marked furniture?

Yes. Section 17(1) of the BIS Act, 2016 names hiring and leasing beside selling, so a rental company may not hire out or lease covered furniture without the ISI mark. The old-stock proviso in S.O. 774(E) speaks only of a maker's declared stock, so it doesn't settle unmarked pieces a rental company bought before February 13, 2026.

How do you check that the ISI mark on furniture is real?

Look for the ISI mark and the CM/L licence number beside it. Check the number in the free BIS CARE app or on BIS's public dashboards, and confirm the licence covers that product's Indian Standard and model. General purpose chairs and stools, and tables and desks, now carry a Type or category marking.

1. Find the mark and number

BIS's January 2026 product manuals require the ISI mark and the model name on each piece (Annex C, paras 3 and 3.1). The CM/L licence number sits with the mark (Rajya Sabha question 2919, August 19, 2025).

2. Look it up

BIS's public dashboards and the BIS CARE app verify a BIS certification (Rajya Sabha question 2938, August 19, 2025).

3. Match the standard and model

A licence covers one product, one Indian Standard and the varieties in its scope (BIS FAQ Q18 and Q24). See the six furniture standards.

4. Check the Type or category

Amendment No. 1, due by January 9, 2026, added Type 1 or Type 2 marking on general purpose chairs and stools and a performance category on tables and desks. It added marking on storage units too (BIS circulars CMD-III/16).

BIS counts a piece made while the licence wasn't in operation, or after it expired, as misuse of the mark (market surveillance guidelines, Annexure-I, Part II, item 6(f)).

Is it illegal to buy a non-ISI chair or bed?

Buying a chair or bed for your own use isn't one of the acts section 17(1) of the BIS Act, 2016 bars. Those are making, importing, distributing, selling, hiring, leasing, storing and displaying for sale. But a seller may not sell you an unmarked covered piece unless an exemption applies.

Hostel and school bunk beds are covered: IS 17636 covers bunk beds "for domestic and non-domestic use" (PM/IS 17636/2, Annex A, para 1).

What is the penalty for selling furniture without the ISI mark?

Up to two years' imprisonment, a fine, or both. Under section 29(3) of the BIS Act, 2016, the fine is at least ₹2 lakh for a first contravention and ₹5 lakh after that, up to ten times the value of the goods. S.O. 801(E) applies the Act (paragraph 4).

Penalty under section 29(3) of the BIS Act, 2016

Contravention	Imprisonment	Fine
First contravention of section 17	Up to two years	At least ₹2 lakh, up to ten times the value of the goods
Second and later contraventions	Up to two years	At least ₹5 lakh, up to ten times the value of the goods

The court can impose either or both, and may order the goods forfeited to BIS (section 32(4)). The offence is cognizable (section 29(4)). If a company or firm offends, its officers in charge, partners included, are liable too (BIS Act, 2016, section 30).

How does BIS enforce the rule?

BIS investigates complaints and tests products bought on the market. Where it finds ISI mark misuse, it searches premises, seizes goods and prosecutes. It found 427 such instances, across all products, in the three years to December 10, 2025, the government told Parliament. Up to October 28, 2026, we found no official report of an operation aimed at furniture.

BIS enforcement figures given to Parliament, all products

Figure	What it counts	Period	Source
427 instances	ISI mark misuse, including use without a licence and no mark where one is required	Three years to December 10, 2025	Rajya Sabha question 1798, December 16, 2025
79 operations	Search and seizure at e-commerce sellers and warehouses	The last three years	Rajya Sabha question 1961, March 10, 2026
24 operations	Search and seizure in Uttar Pradesh	Financial year 2024-25	Lok Sabha question 2075, February 12, 2026

BIS says raids follow complaints checked through a discreet investigation (BIS consumer FAQ). Its officers buy marked products from shops to test (market surveillance guidelines, para 5(1)(i) and Annexure-I, item 3).

Can you advertise furniture as meeting the Indian Standard without a licence?

No. Section 17(2) of the BIS Act, 2016 bars a public claim that your goods meet an Indian Standard without a valid BIS licence or certificate of conformity. That covers advertisements, sales leaflets, price lists and the like. Section 17(3) bars using the Standard Mark, or an imitation of it, except under a valid BIS licence.

Latest notices and insights

- Jan Vishwas Act, 2026 rewrites offenses and penalties in 80 Acts (Insight, April 7, 2026)

Frequently asked questions

Can I display non-ISI furniture in the showroom?

Not the six covered products, unless exempt: section 17(1) of the BIS Act bars exhibiting them for sale without the mark. A licensed or applicant maker may "sell or display" its declared old stock for twelve months from February 13, 2026, which by our count ends about mid-February 2027.

Do I need to keep proof that my supplier is licensed?

Section 18(2) of the BIS Act makes you responsible for buying marked goods from a licence holder, but doesn't prescribe the proof. The BIS CARE app checks the licence number on each piece.

Where do I report a fake ISI mark?

In the free BIS CARE app (Rajya Sabha question 2938). BIS also takes complaints by post, email or at a branch office, including misuse of the mark and QCO breaches (BIS consumer FAQ).

Sources

- Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, sections 2(25), 17, 18, 29, 30 and 32 (PDF, 133 KB)
- S.O. 801(E) of 2025: Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2025, paragraphs 2 to 4 and Table (Gazette of India, February 14, 2025) (PDF, 1.7 MB)
- S.O. 774(E): Furniture (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026, paragraph 2, second inserted proviso (Gazette of India, February 13, 2026) (PDF, 668 KB)
- S.O. 777(E): amendment of eight Quality Control Orders, Table, S. No. 8, Furniture (Gazette of India, February 13, 2026) (PDF, 777 KB)
- S.O. 3417(E): Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026, Schedule, S. No. 9 (Gazette of India, June 25, 2026) (PDF, 746 KB)
- Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1961, answered March 10, 2026 (Consumer Affairs): 79 search and seizure operations at e-commerce sellers and warehouses
- Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1798, answered December 16, 2025 (Consumer Affairs): 427 instances of ISI mark misuse
- Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2938, answered August 19, 2025 (Consumer Affairs): public dashboards and the BIS CARE app
- Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2919, answered August 19, 2025 (Consumer Affairs): checking the ISI mark by its CM/L licence number
- Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2075, answered February 12, 2026 (MSME): 24 search and seizure operations in Uttar Pradesh in 2024-25
- BIS: product certification FAQ, Q5, Q18 and Q24
- BIS: consumer FAQ (complaints, misuse of the Standard Mark, search and seizure)

- BIS product manual PM/IS 17631/3, January 2026: work chairs (IS 17631), Annex A and Annex C (PDF, 979 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17632/3, January 2026: general purpose chairs and stools (IS 17632), Annex A and Annex C (PDF, 980 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17633/3, January 2026: tables and desks (IS 17633), Annex A and Annex C (PDF, 878 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17634/3, January 2026: storage units (IS 17634), Annex A and Annex C (PDF, 921 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17635/2, January 2026: beds (IS 17635), Annex A and Annex C (PDF, 993 KB)
- BIS product manual PM/IS 17636/2, January 2026: bunk beds (IS 17636), Annex A and Annex C (PDF, 988 KB)
- BIS circular CMD-III/16: IS 17632, January 5, 2026: guidelines for implementation of Amendment No. 1 to IS 17632 (general purpose chairs and stools) (PDF, 894 KB)
- BIS circular CMD-III/16: IS 17633, January 5, 2026: guidelines for implementation of Amendment No. 1 to IS 17633 (tables and desks) (PDF, 896 KB)
- BIS circular CMD-III/16: IS 17634, January 5, 2026: guidelines for implementation of Amendment No. 1 to IS 17634 (storage units) (PDF, 898 KB)
- BIS: guidelines for market surveillance, CMD-I/2:12:7, February 25, 2026, para 5(1)(i) and Annexure-I (PDF, 192 KB)

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