



Expert Chats: Standards and Market Access in India

Session: Understanding the Indian Standards Landscape (BIS)



SESEI | Seconded European
Standardisation
Expert in India
Enabling Europe-India Cooperation on Standards

Outline

- **Project SESEI**
- **Indian SDO: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**
- **Other SDOs incl. Foreign SDOs present in India**
- **EU/EFTA – India Partnership**
- **Digital Product Passport (DPP) in EU & India**
- **Quality Control Orders (QCOs) incl. Foreign Manufacturer Certification & Laboratory Recognition Scheme**
- **Summary & Conclusions:**
 - **Standards as a Strategic Enabler for Market Entry & Expansion in India**
 - **How Early Standards Engagement Reduces Risks**
 - **What Makes India Different**
- **Important Links**



SESEI: Local Representative of EU Standardisation Bodies in India

SESEI (Seconded European Standardization Expert in India) *is a local face for the European standardization community in India: Dinesh Chand Sharma*

Launched in Jan'13, currently in its sixth phase (Aug'24 to July'27)



Priority Sectors/topics: Aligned with EU-INDIA TTC & Connectivity Partnership

Digitization: Strategic technologies, digital governance, and digital connectivity

- Smart Cities, ITS, Quantum Technologies, Smart Grid/Meter, AI, 5G/6G, Open RAN, M2M/IoT, DECT, Data Privacy, Satellite Communication, Blockchain, Digital Signature, Smart Manufacturing, e-Accessibility, cybersecurity, digital skills and R&I etc.

Green & Clean Technologies:

- Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency (Green ICT), Environment, Circular Economy including Resource Efficiency, Waste Management, Energy storage technologies, **Electric mobility**, Green Hydrogen, Advanced biofuels including R&I etc.

Market access & Other topics of mutual interests:

- Rail, Ropeways, Machinery Safety etc.

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SESEI - Standards Focused Project & More

Terms & Reference/ Objectives

- ✓ The SESEI project aligns closely with priorities of EU/EFTA and India through the collaborative efforts of partner (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, the European Commission, and EFTA) and serves as a vital link, bridging the European and Indian standardization ecosystems.

Its core objectives are:

- ✓ Enhance the visibility of European standardization activities
- ✓ Develop cooperation in the field of digitalization and sustainability, covering the priority topics of TTC,
- ✓ Foster standardization approaches and priorities at national and international level that support TTC topics and leads to harmonization of standards on Global/European levels,
- ✓ Protect, promote and support the interests of European industry and citizens, and enhance cooperation and collaborative relationship between EU/EFTA and India,
- ✓ Increase cooperation between Indian and European standardization bodies and help European industry on their queries around standards and market access,
- ✓ Support and ensure technical synergy with other EU – India projects such as project InDiCo-Global, Digital Policy Dialogue, INPACE, Connectivity Partnership.



SESEI: Achievements

- Permanent presence of Project SESEI expert in India has provided considerable insight, access, alignment of Indian standardisation programmes and strategy i.e. roadmaps and priorities.
 - **Local presence**
 - ✓ Database of 3000+ contacts, all partners can leverage to engage with stakeholders in India, either directly or with support of the SESEI expert.
 - ✓ Contact with Ministries & admins and other CC and/or embassies
 - ✓ Picks up queries from EU/Indian Industry/Legislators around Legislation, Standards and extended local support in pursuing Market Access Issues (Compulsory Registration Order)
 - **Information flow (both ways)**
 - ✓ Monthly Newsletter for both EU/EFTA and Indian stakeholders
 - ✓ Industry Sector Profile Report on 1) [Digitalisation \(Presentation\)](#) and 2) [Green & Clean Technologies: India \(Presentation\)](#)
 - ✓ Reports on European Standardisation Initiatives: on the request of IN govt bodies [eCall: European Initiative](#) , [Intelligent Transport System – Europe](#), [Smart Manufacturing/Industry 4.0 – Europe](#), [Smart City in Europe](#)
 - ✓ Thematic Webinars (Consumer IoT Security and Circular Economy and Eco Design, Eco Labelling, etc)
 - **Indo European Conference on Standards & Emerging Technologies**
 - ✓ A strong platform established by SESEI for effective and continuous dialogue between India and EU/EFTA to identify the key areas of collaboration.
 - ✓ 4th Edition of the Conference was held on 7th December 2023 : The next edition of the Conference is planned for 15-16th February 2027



SESEI-CEN-CENELEC-ETSI with BIS

➤ **Presence and involvement of SESEI expert in relevant associations, working groups in India**

- ✓ Member of many TC's /WG's of BIS, TEC, TSDSI , Niti Aayog, Trade/Tech Associations, and active participations in various forums.

➤ **Structural cooperation**

- ✓ MoU between BIS -CEN-CENELEC and BIS – ETSI (includes Copyright Provisions)
- ✓ Framework Copyright Agreement between BIS-CEN-CENELEC under discussions

➤ **Adoption of EN's by BIS:**

- ✓ Adoption of EN-115 standards as Indian Standard: BIS
- ✓ Adoption of EN 301 549 (Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services): BIS
- ✓ Adoption of E/Digital – Signatures: plans to adopt entire ETSI library, Ongoing
- ✓ BIS Standard on Smart Infrastructure has IoT reference Architecture standards based on oneM2M Reference Architecture and Indian standard also includes ETSI NDSI-LD as well.

➤ **EN possible for study & adoption – linked to closure of Copyright License agreement between CEN-CENELEC-BIS:**

- ✓ e-invoicing, Transportation Services, Test Methods for food products, Upgrade to EN-115, EN-81(Escalators and Moving Walks), European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), Intelligent transport systems including Road Infrastructure etc.



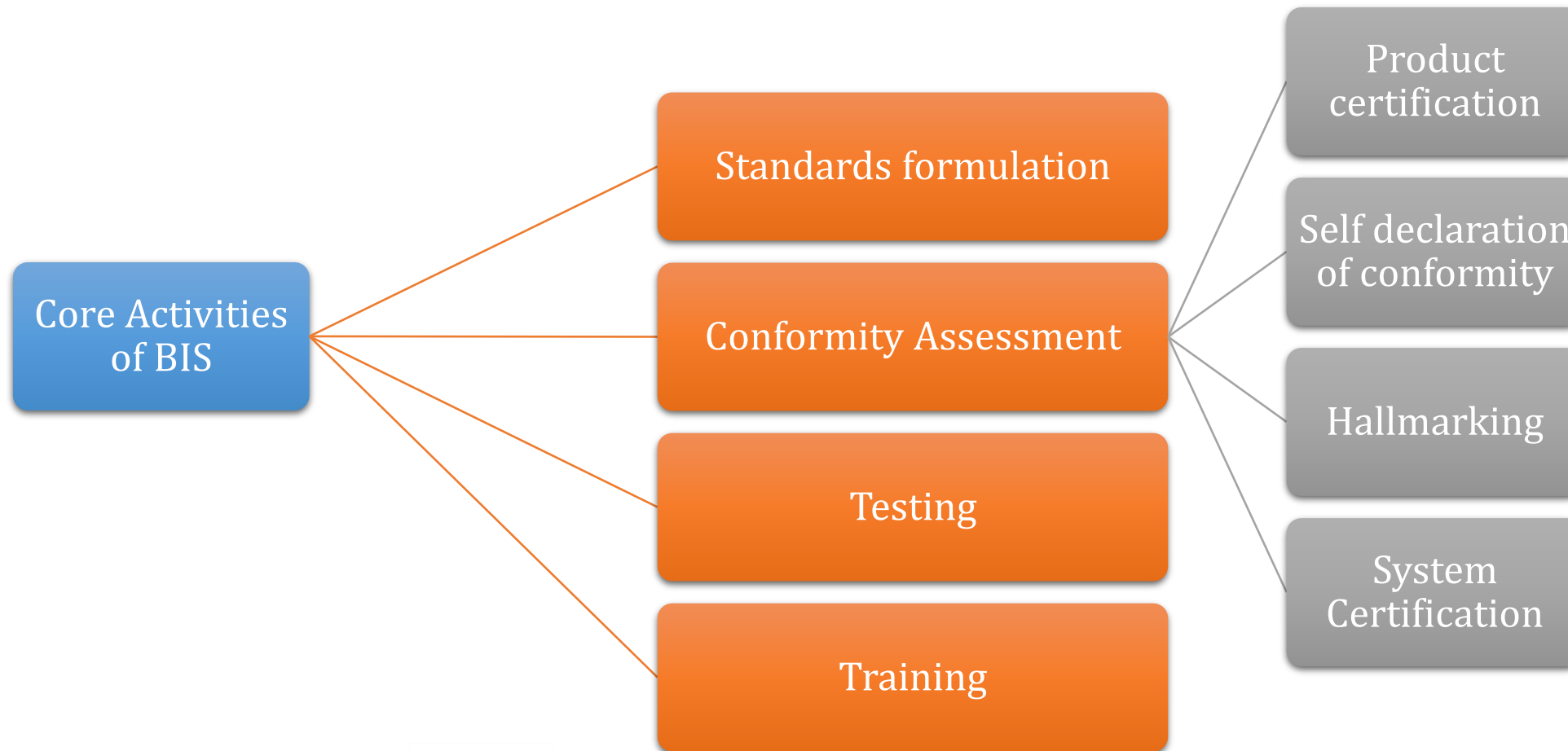
National Standards Body of India

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

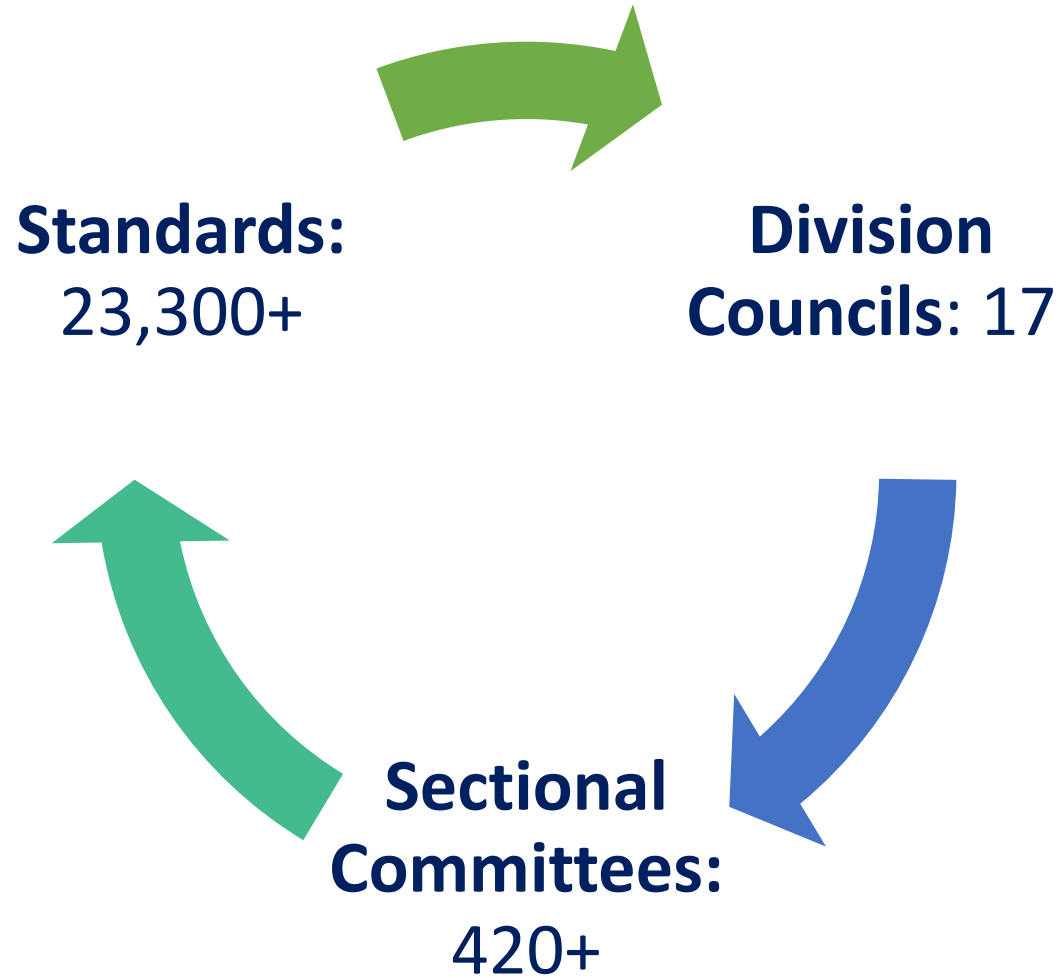


Introduction

National Standards Body of India, driven by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016

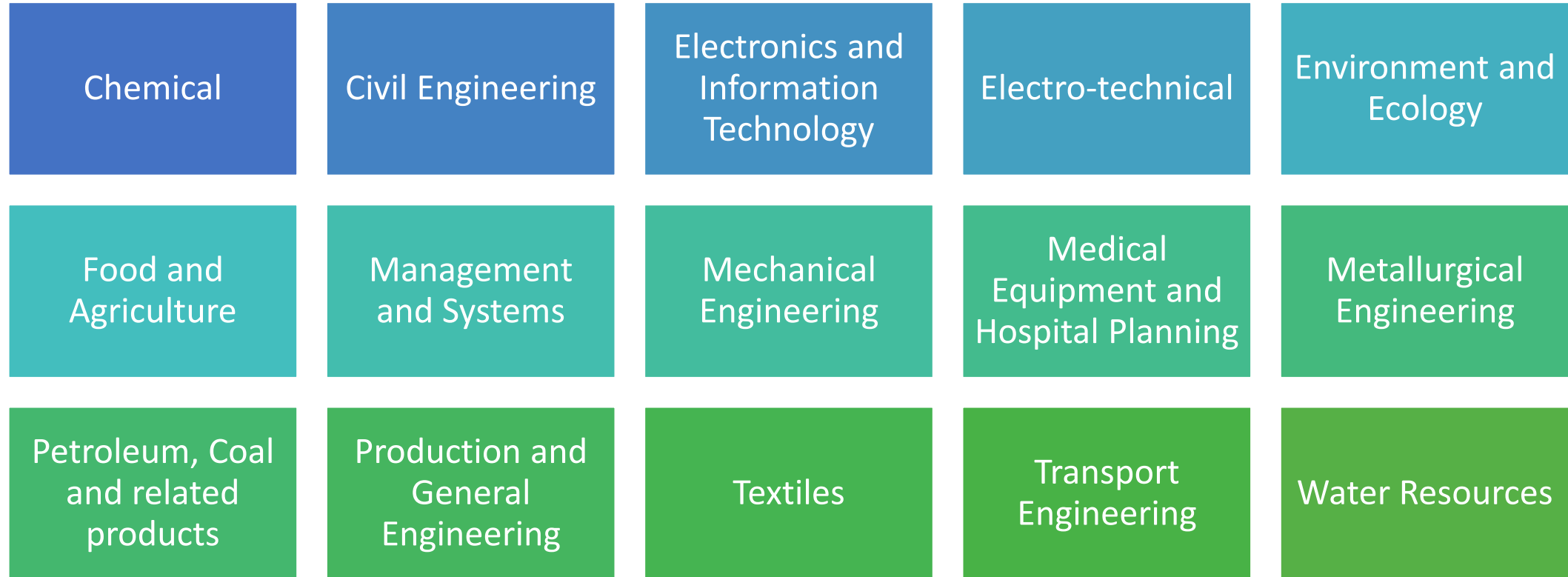


Standards development at a glance



Technical Divisions for Standardization

Standards are set by 420+ technical committees under 17 division councils



Published Standards

S. No.	Technical Departments	Total Standards
1	AYUSH DEPARTMENT (AYD)	205
2	CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT (CHD)	2,066
3	CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (CED)	1,925
4	ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT (LITD)	1,607
5	ELECTROTECHNICAL DEPARTMENT (ETD)	1,932
6	ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY DEPARTMENT (EED)	130
7	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (FAD)	2,291
8	MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEPARTMENT (MSD)	537
9	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (MED)	1,424
10	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND HOSPITAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT (MHD)	1,725
11	METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (MTD)	1,690
12	PETROLEUM, COAL AND RELATED PRODUCTS DEPARTMENT (PCD)	1,595
13	PRODUCTION AND GENERAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (PGD)	2,597
14	SERVICE SECTOR DEPARTMENT (SSD)	178
15	TEXTILE DEPARTMENT (TXD)	1,570
16	TRANSPORT ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (TED)	1,385
17	WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT (WRD)	461
Total		23,318

Harmonized with ISO/IEC standards

- BIS often adopts ISO/IEC standards into Indian regulations but with local safety/environmental modifications.
- Out of 23,300+ total Indian standards in force, ISO/IEC/other standards adoption (identical/modified/not equivalent) exists in 10,000+ (~43%) standards:
 - => ~40% of Indian Standards are harmonized with ISO/IEC/other standards as "Identical (36%)" and "Modified/Technically Equivalent (4%)" and
 - => ~3% of Indian Standards are adopted based on ISO/IEC/other standards but they are "Not equivalent"

International Cooperation

- Founder member of ISO
- Participating (P) member of 470 committees and Observer (O) member in 194 committees of ISO (+/- 760)
 - India holds the Secretariat of 11 ISO committees (TC & SC level from +/- 760) and Convenorship of 21 ISO working groups.
 - Member of ISO TMB
- Represents India through Indian National Committee (INC) in the IEC as a member
- Participating member of 92 Technical Committees and observer member in 74 Technical Committees of IEC (+/- 215)
 - India holds the Chairmanship of the IEC Systems Committee on 'Low Voltage Direct Current (LVDC) and LVDC for electricity access' and of IEC/TC 33 'Power capacitors and their applications'
 - IEC Board ((2024-2026) & IEC SMB (2024-2026) & IEC VP (SMB) from India
- Member of regional standards bodies like Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) and South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO).
- 31 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) & 8 Bilateral Agreements
 - MoU b/w [ETSI↔BIS](#), [CEN-CENELEC↔BIS](#) and [CEN \(EN-115\)↔BIS](#)



Other Standards Developing Bodies & Stakeholders including Foreign SDOs



Other Standards Developing Bodies in India

Statutory provisions under Section 10 (2) (c) of BIS Act 2016 and Section 30 of BIS Rules, 2018 confer upon BIS, powers to recognize any SDO in India for development of standards.

Dedicated Standards bodies

- [Telecommunication Engineering Centre \(TEC\)](#)
- [Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India \(TSDSI\)](#)
- [Automotive Research Association of India \(ARAI\)](#)
- [Railways Design & Standards Organization \(RDSO\)](#)
- [Directorate of Standardization \(DoS\) – Ministry of Defence](#)
- [Inter Plant Standardization in Steel Industry \(IPSS\)](#)

Industries and professional bodies, which formulate sector specific standards are:

- [Bureau of Energy Efficiency \(BEE\)](#)
- [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change \(MoEFCC\)](#)
 - [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#)
- [Export Inspection Council of India \(EIC\)- Ministry of Commerce](#)
- [Quality Council of India \(QCI\)](#)
- [Standardization Testing and Quality Certification \(STQC\) Directorate – MEITY](#)
- [Central Electricity Authority \(CEA\) - Ministry of Power](#)
- [Ministry of Road Transport and Highways \(MoRTH\)](#)
- [Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority \(APEDA\)](#)
- [Directorate of Marketing and Inspection \(DMI\)- Ministry of Agriculture](#)
- [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India \(FSSAI\)](#)

For more information, please [click here](#)

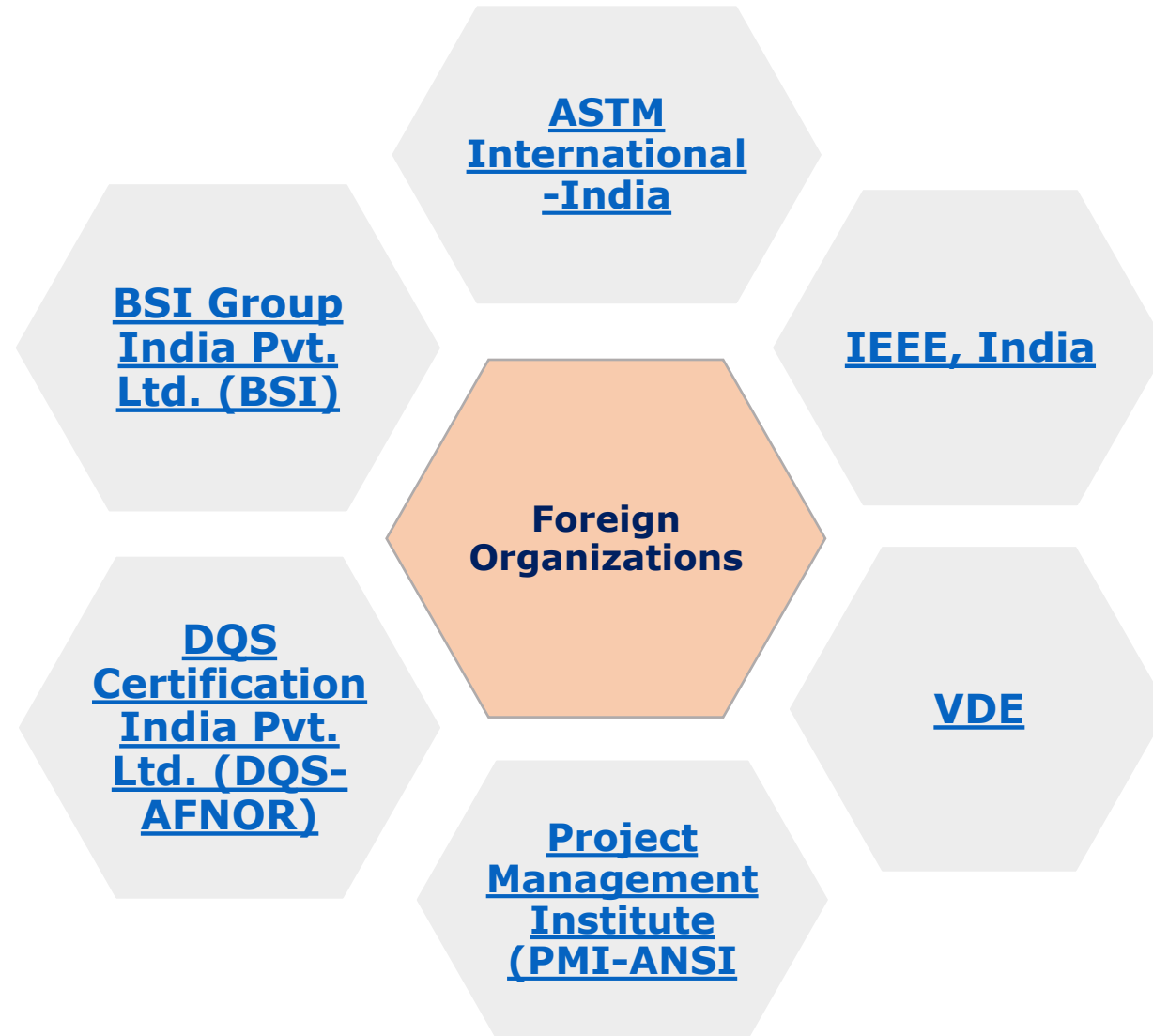


Other Key actors influencing standards development

There are several key actors that influence standards development in the country such as:

- **Government Ministries/Agencies to ensure that standards are aligned with their respective sectors and regulatory requirements :**
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), Ministry of Power (MoP), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA), Ministry of Road and Transport Highways (MoRTH) among others.
- **Industry Associations to provide inputs, expertise, and recommendations to influence the development of standards that are relevant to their respective industries. :**
 - Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Manufacturers` Association for Information Technology (MAIT), Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Global ICT Standardization Forum for India (GISFI), Broadband India Forum (BIF), IET India and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) etc.
- **Research Institutions and Academia:** They conduct research, provide technical expertise, and participate in standardization activities.
 - Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), DST, C-DOT, CEWiT, C-DAC, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Laboratories etc.

Foreign SDOs in India



EU/EFTA – India Partnership



EU/EFTA - India Relations

- **New Strategic EU-India Agenda towards 2030**

- ✓ Building on the EU's Joint Communication in 2025 '[New Strategic EU-India Agenda](#)', Cooperation on research and innovation is a cross-cutting and integral part of [Joint EU-India Comprehensive Strategic Agenda Towards 2030](#), adopted on 27 January 2026 at 16th EU-India Summit

- Agenda will strengthen the cooperation on sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, connectivity, global issues, and people-to-people cooperation.

- India and European Union concluded negotiations for a comprehensive **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** on January 27, 2026

- [Expected by early 2027, FTA will reduce or eliminate tariffs on 99.5% of EU tariff lines and 92.1% of India's, covering 97.5% of trade value.](#)

- **Trade Technology Council (TTC)** set up in February 2023

- ✓ **Strategic Technologies** : Quantum and High-performance Computing, Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductor sector, Digital skills, 5G , IoT and enhance interoperability of respective digital public infrastructure.
- ✓ **Green & Clean Energy Technologies**: Waste-water management, Recycling of Batteries for Electrical Vehicles, Standards in the Research Domain (Waste to Green Hydrogen, Marine Plastic Litter and Wastewater, E-Mobility – Circularity aspects of batteries & interoperability of Charging Infrastructure)
- ✓ **Trade Investment and Resilient Value Chains**: Resilient Value Chains, resolve bilateral market access issues, exchange information on mechanism for FDI screening, address global and multilateral trade issues

- India-EFTA trade talks > [Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement \(TEPA\)](#) signed in March 2024

- At G20 held in India, creation of the India-Middle East-Europe- Economic Corridor was launched: Sep'23

- EU-India [Connectivity Partnership](#) aligned with EU's [Global Gateway](#)

EU Policy Initiatives on Digital Product Passport (DPP)

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) (*Entered into force: 18 July 2024*)

- **Key objective:**

- Enable sustainable, circular and energy-efficient products across the EU.

- **Key features**

- Expanded scope beyond energy-related products
- New requirements on **substances of concern**
- Increased focus on **Digital Product Passport (DPP)**
- Supports **repairability, recyclability, and product transparency**
- Enables **automatic customs verification** for imported products

Digital Product Passport (DPP): Mandatory from **2027** (priority sectors); full rollout by **2030**

- **Includes:**

- ✓ Product technical performance
- ✓ Material origin and composition
- ✓ Repair history
- ✓ Recycling information
- ✓ Lifecycle environmental impacts

2025–2030 ESPR Work Plan Priorities

- ✓ Steel & aluminium
- ✓ Textiles and Furniture
- ✓ Tyres
- ✓ Mattresses
- ✓ Electrical & electronic products



EU Standardization Supporting DPP

ETSI TC Environmental Engineering (EE)

- Supports EU sustainability policies through standards on:
 - Eco-design
 - Energy efficiency
 - Environmental impact
 - Telecom equipment sustainability
- **Published standards**
 - **ETSI TS 103 881 (2024):** Global digital sustainable product passport
 - **ETSI ES 204 082 (2025):** Information model for digital product sustainability data

CEN/CENELEC JTC 24 – Digital Product Passport

- **Focus areas:**
 - Unique identifiers
 - Data carriers & QR linkage
 - Interoperability
 - APIs & lifecycle management
 - Security & access rights
 - Data integrity and storage
- ***No published standard yet***

India Initiatives & Standardization

- **Battery Pack Aadhaar (BPAN)**

- Proposed by **MoRTH/DST**
- Unique **21-character QR-based ID**
- End-to-end EV battery traceability:
Manufacturing → Use → Second-life → Recycling
- [Draft GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BATTERY PACK AADHAAR SYSTEM](#)

- **Linked policy areas**

- Circular Economy
- EPR frameworks
- ESG / BRSR disclosures

- **Indian Standardization**

- **BIS MSD-10:** Developing **Sustainability Reporting & Disclosure** standards aligned with **European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)**



Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Quality Control Orders QCO's



Quality Control Order (QCO)

BIS

BIS works with Line Ministries to provide technical input on standards and schemes, while participating in consultations to **assist the government in issuing QCOs**.

QCO

QCOs are **government regulations** that **set quality standards for specific products or categories**, ensuring products meet safety, performance, and quality requirements before manufacturing, importing, storing, or selling.

Mandatory vs. voluntary standards

Standards (Voluntary)

- Document approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory.
- It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.

Regulation – QCO (Mandatory)

- Lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory.
- It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.

Preparation & issuance of Quality Control Orders (QCO) under BIS Act, 2016

- Identification of goods & articles and preparation of draft QCO in consultation with BIS
- Approval of draft QCO from competent authority
- Hosting of draft QCO on WTO-TBT website through Ministry of Commerce
- Holding consultation meeting with stakeholders
- Examine, review the comments (if any) and take decision
- Finalisation of draft QCO giving reasonable time for implementation and approval from the competent authority
- Issue of QCOs and informing stakeholders

BIS Certification Schemes

- BIS certification scheme is basically voluntary in nature. However, for a number of products compliance to Indian Standards is made compulsory by Government under various considerations viz. public interest, protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of environment, prevention of unfair trade practices and national security.
 - For such products, Central Government directs mandatory use of Standard Mark under a Licence or Certificate of Conformity (CoC) from BIS through issuance of QCOs.
- **BIS Certification Schemes:**
 - Scheme – I (ISI-Mark Scheme)
 - Scheme – II (Registration Scheme)
 - Scheme – IV (Certificate Of Conformity)
 - Scheme – X (Certification)

Scheme - I (ISI Mark Scheme)

(Based on scheme type 4 of ISO/IEC 17067)

- **Scope - Licence** to use or apply a Standard Mark (ISI Mark),  granted by BIS for goods or articles manufactured in a manufacturing premises and conforming to all the requirements of the relevant Indian Standard(s) ([Guidelines for Grant of Licence](#)>>)
 - Manufacturing premise(s) means the premises, either owned by the applicant or otherwise, where a part of the manufacturing activity takes place and includes the premises where the final manufacturing activity is carried out and where Standard Mark is to be used or applied
- **Focus: Product quality & standard compliance**
- **Process -**
 - **Initial assessment:**
 - Factory Assessment for manufacturing & testing capability, production process
 - Conformity of Product to relevant standard – Independent testing in third party laboratory or **factory testing**
 - **Surveillance:**
 - Periodic assessment of manufacturing & testing capability, production process
 - Conformity of Product drawn from factory and/or market to relevant standard
- **Timeline & Validity of BIS Certificate**
 - Average time taken for GoL under **option-2** (Simplified Procedure) is generally **one month** and under **option-1** (Normal Procedure) **four months** from the date of receipt of complete application and its recording. It may vary for reasons like delay in response to queries raised, if any; organizing inspection(s); sample deposition, and fee dues, etc.
 - [Click here](#) for the list of Products under option-2
 - Option 2 for GoL (not available to foreign manufacturer)
 - Initial validity of a BIS certificate under Scheme I is typically 1-2 years, and it can be renewed for a period of 1 to 5 years, depending on the product and circumstances.

Scheme - II (Compulsory Registration Scheme)

(Based on scheme type 2 of ISO/IEC 17067)

- **Scope - Licence** to use or apply a Standard Mark  through registration based on self-declaration of conformity for goods or articles manufactured in a manufacturing premises and conforming to all the requirements of the relevant Indian Standard(s)
 - Manufacturing premise(s) means the premises, either owned by the applicant or otherwise, where a part of the manufacturing activity takes place and includes the premises where the final manufacturing activity is carried out and where Standard Mark is to be used or applied
- **Process –**
 - **Initial assessment:**
 - No factory visit involved
 - Conformity of Product to relevant standard – Independent testing in third party laboratory by manufacturer and submission of test report to BIS
 - **Surveillance:**
 - Conformity of Product drawn from **market** to relevant standard
 - **Timeline & Validity of BIS Certificate**
 - Initial validity of a BIS registration mark under Scheme II is typically 1-2 years, and it can be renewed for a period of 1 to 5 years, depending on the product and circumstances.

Scheme - IV (Grant of Certificate of Conformity)

(Based on scheme type 4 of ISO/IEC 17067)

- **Scope - Certificate of conformity** granted by the Bureau for goods or articles manufactured in a manufacturing premises and conforming to the requirements of Standard(s) or part of Standard(s) or essential requirement(s) ([>>Guidelines for grant of certificate of conformity](#))
 - Manufacturing premise(s) means the premises, either owned by the applicant or otherwise, where a part of the manufacturing activity takes place and includes the premises where the final manufacturing activity is carried out and where certificate of conformity is to be used
- **Focus: Product conformity for specific categories such as Transformer components, retro-reflective devices etc.**
- **Process –**
 - **Initial assessment:**
 - Factory Assessment for manufacturing & testing capability, production process
 - Conformity of Product to relevant standard – Independent testing in third party laboratory or factory testing
 - **Surveillance:**
 - Periodic assessment of manufacturing & testing capability, production process
 - Conformity of Product drawn from factory or market to relevant standard

Scheme - X (Certification)

(Based on scheme type 4 of ISO/IEC 17067)

- Focus: Safety-critical, complex, high-risk equipment such as Machinery, switchgear, industrial equipment
- Submission of certification application by the manufacturer
 - Licence to use BIS Standard Mark or Certificate of Conformity (CoC)
- Desk evaluation of technical file submitted with application
- Inspection and evaluation through visit
 - Manufacturing premises, Other sites
- Conformance to specified requirements - Establishment of evidence
- After establishing evidence - Decision to grant licence or CoC
- Licence - for continuous production
 - Initial - 3 to 6 years, Renewal - 3 to 6 years
- CoC - for one-time production with no renewal
- [Scheme-X](#) notification and procedural [Guidelines](#) available on BIS website

Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS)

- BIS has been operating a Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme (FMCS) since the year 2000 and now under the [BIS Act 2016 and Rules & Regulations](#) framed there under.
- Under FMCS, licence is granted to a Foreign Manufacture for the use of Standard Mark on a product that conforms to an Indian Standard (IS).
- Scheme is applicable for the grant of licence for all [products](#) except [Electronics & IT Goods notified by MeitY](#).
- Licence is granted by Foreign Manufacturers Certification Department (FMCD) located at BIS Headquarters, New Delhi.
- Recently, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) launched a [**dedicated online portal for the Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme \(FMCS\)**](#).
 - Effective June 1, all applications must be submitted **digitally** through the **Manakonline Portal**, ending the processing of **offline submissions**.

[More information about FMCS>>](#)



Laboratory Recognition Scheme

BIS also operates “Laboratory Recognition Scheme (LRS)” through which different types of laboratories in India and outside India are recognized.

- LRS is governed by the provisions under Section 13 (4) of The BIS Act 2016 and Rule 32 of the BIS Rules, 2018.
- Scheme covers guidelines for recognition and de-recognition of the laboratories

Objectives:

- To ensure that Indian laboratory adhere to the requirements for foreign certification.
- To make sure that when certification is given to laboratories, conformity assessment procedures are followed.
- Numerous testing facilities are being developed through various projects.
- To guarantee that testing laboratories both inside and outside of India adhere to rules.
- **BIS Laboratories or Recognized Lab:**
 - [Group-1 List of BIS Recognised Laboratories: 289](#)
 - [Group-2 Specialized Labs / Other Labs – Facilities Of Which Are Being Utilized By BIS: 260](#)
 - [BIS labs: 8](#)



Products under Mandatory Certification

BIS Scheme →	<u>Scheme-I</u>	<u>Scheme-II</u>	<u>Scheme-X</u>	<u>Scheme-IV</u>
Total Products under Mandatory Certification as on 06/06/2025	639	74	08*	2
No. of QCOs	136	6	1	2
List of Products	Steel and Iron Products, Cement, Household Electrical goods, Batteries, Feeding Bottles, Oil Pressure Stoves, Automobile Accessories, Cylinder, Valves and Regulator, Medical Equipment, Electrical Transformers and Motors, Capacitors, Chemicals, Fertilizers, Polymers & Textiles, Air Conditioner, Electric and Non Electric Toys, Cattle Feeds, Foot Wear, Refrigerating Appliances, Textiles, Smart Meters, Copper Products, Hinges, Electrical Accessories, Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances, Many More.....	Electronics and IT goods, solar photovoltaic systems, Devices and Components , and certain chemicals and textile material	Low – Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear including products like circuit breakers, switches, and contactors	Stampings/laminations/cores of transformers (with or without winding), Retro-Reflective Devices for Bicycles

QCOs: Recent Developments and steps taken by Govt

- **Making Quality Work: Policy and Process Recommendations for Reducing Regulatory Burden of QCOs drafted by an agency in India to promote deregulations and EoDB**

- 10 recommendations related to easing the QCO burden are summarized below:

1. Remove/Suspend QCOs on Raw Material and Intermedia Products. Prioritize this for products which have no competitive sourcing alternative in India.

Step taken: Recently, India withdrawn or rescinded QCOs for numerous Products to ease business, lower costs, boost MSMEs, and improve raw material availability for sectors like packaging, textiles, and medical devices. (List is available in next slide)

2. Exempt MSMEs from QCO compliance or initiate a fast-track efficient process

Step taken: MSMEs have been provided additional compliance timelines under multiple QCOs. Micro enterprises received up to 6 months' relaxation and small enterprises 3 months in several sectors. Discussions are also underway on graded standards and for small manufacturers through an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG).

3. Introduce a "trusted sources" framework to exempt select products from approved countries from mandatory testing

4. Conduct comprehensive and independent impact assessment along with industry consultation prior to roll out of QCOs

Step taken: Indian Govt. has set up an Inter-ministerial group (IMG) in 2025 to assess QCOs proposed by various ministries

5. Extend validity period of BIS licenses: Licence validity increased to: up to 5 years

6. Streamline and simplify certification procedure across all schemes

Step taken: BIS has expanded online application and approval systems online through the e-BIS and Manakonline portals

7. Harmonize Indian standards with international benchmarks: Out of 23,300+ total Indian standards in force, ISO/IEC/other standards adoption (identical/modified/not equivalent) exists in 10,000+ (~43%) standards

8. Add more internationally accredited third-party labs to the testing network

9. Expand the network of third-party labs including sector specific facilities: BIS is open to accredit international Labs as many as possible and approached

10. Enhance centralized digital platform for end-to-end tracking support and query resolution

Step taken: BIS has launched and strengthened multiple digital platforms including e-BIS, Manakonline, and LIMS for online applications, status tracking, laboratory management, certification workflows, and grievance/query handling.

Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) notified the “[Transition Facilitation \(Quality Control\) Order, 2026](#)” on 25 June 2026 to strengthen supply chains and facilitate industry compliance through a structured transition mechanism.

- Introduces an alternative risk-based compliance framework while maintaining adherence to applicable Indian Standards.
- Order will remain in force for **5 years from commencement** (unless extended), while applications for permission will be accepted within **24 months from commencement**.
- Applies to **10 QCOs** covering products such as **Toys, Personal Protective Equipment (Footwear), Air Conditioners and Components, Footwear, Furniture, Hinges, Electrical appliance for domestic water heating, Electrical appliance for domestic clothes washing and Household Electrical Safety Products**.
- Eligible companies may apply to DPIIT under a structured approval mechanism based on risk assessment, technical capability, compliance record and supply chain assurance.
 - Permitted entities may temporarily source QCO-covered products from manufacturers that have not yet obtained BIS certification, provided such products fully conform to applicable Indian Standards and BIS Scheme-II requirements.
 - Applications will be evaluated by an Implementation Committee chaired by DPIIT and comprising representatives from BIS, Department of Commerce, Department of Consumer Affairs, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and other relevant ministries/agencies.

Key Products Impacted by QCO Withdrawal

BIS Certification Scheme	Products
Scheme – I (ISI Mark Scheme)	Chemicals, Fertilizers, Polymers & Textiles: Acetic Acid, Aniline, Methanol, Pyridine, Beta Picoline, Sodium Tripolyphosphate, Anhydrous, Technical, Ethylene Glycol, Toluene, Terephthalic Acid, Methyl Acrylate, Ethyl Acrylate, Vinyl Acetate Monomer, Styrene (Vinyl Benzene), Maleic Anhydride, Acrylonitrile, 100 Percent. Polyester Spun Grey and White Yarn (PSY), Polyester Continuous Filament Fully Drawn Yarn , Polyester Industrial Yarn (IDY), Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn (POY), Polyester Staple Fibres (PSF), Polyethylene Material for moulding and extrusion, Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) Copolymers, Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), Ethylene Dichloride, p-Xylene , Polycarbonate, Polyurethanes, Vinyl Chloride Monomer, Lauric Acid, Acid Oil, Palm Fatty Acids, Rice Bran Fatty Acids, Coconut Fatty Acids, Hydrogenated Rice Bran Fatty Acids
	Viscose Staple Fibres
	Flux Cored Solder Wire
	Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Homopolymers
	Polypropylene (PP) Materials for Moulding and Extrusion
	H Acid , K Acid & Vinyl Sulphone
	Metals and Alloys: Aluminium and Aluminium Alloys, Copper, Nickel Powder
	Non-ferrous refined metals: Refined Nickel, Primary Lead, Refined Zinc, Tin Ingot
Scheme – X (Certification)	Machinery and Electrical Equipment covered under Omnibus Technical Regulation

Summary



Standards as a Strategic Enabler for Market Entry & Expansion in India

Why Standards Matter for EU businesses:

- **Standards support faster and more predictable market access by:**
 - Aligning products and services with Indian regulatory and conformity assessment requirements
 - Enabling interoperability with Indian digital, telecom, energy, mobility and industrial ecosystems
 - Reducing duplication of testing, certification and compliance activities
 - Facilitating participation in public procurement and large-scale infrastructure projects
 - Strengthening customer confidence through internationally recognised technical benchmarks
- **Structured preparation around standards helps companies to:**
 - Map applicable Indian standards, technical regulations and sector-specific requirements early
 - Identify gaps between EU and Indian technical specifications
 - Anticipate localisation requirements and sectoral policy developments
 - Build long-term compliance and certification strategies
 - Engage proactively with Indian regulators, standards bodies and industry platforms

Strategic Business Benefits

- Faster product deployment cycles
- Lower compliance costs over time
- Reduced market-entry uncertainty
- Improved scalability across sectors and regions
- Better positioning in emerging technology domains

How Early Standards Engagement Reduces Risks

- **Early engagement with applicable standards enables companies to:**
 - Understand evolving Indian regulatory expectations before commercial deployment
 - Reduce risks linked to non-compliance, delays and redesign costs
 - Improve supply-chain readiness and operational planning
 - Anticipate future technical and interoperability requirements
 - Support investment planning and localisation strategies

How to Prepare Early (Key Takeaway)



Track draft QCOs and related Policy initiatives in India



Design products to ISO/IEC first, if needed localize early



Engage & actively participate in BIS technical committees



Plan certification during product design if QCO exist

What Makes India Different



Rapid expansion of mandatory standards through QCOs



Policy & Regulation driven standard enforcement



Certification is mandatory even for ISO/IEC aligned products



Import focused compliance checks - applicable for Domestic Industry also

Conclusions

- SESEI Project has proved to be an asset and is acknowledged for the benefit that it brings to EU/EFTA Policy Makers and the ESO's
 - ✓ Wealth of knowledge, achievements and expertise
- India is a growingly significantly in trade and is a trusted partner in progress
- Standards are strategic tools for trust, quality, and market access — early preparation is of great advantage.
- Standards in India are increasingly becoming tools for regulation, support national initiatives such as Make in India,, build consumer confidence by ensuring safety and reliability, and are widely used by regulators as an effective governance instruments for market oversight and compliance.
 - ✓ While most Indian Standards are harmonized with global standards, gaps still exist due to national deviations, delayed adoption of the latest editions, and India-specific testing and certification requirements.
- Early and structured engagement can help European businesses reduce risks, improve competitiveness and strengthen long-term market positioning in India.
- CEN-CENELEC-BIS Framework Closure is a key, and it shall lead to many more EN adoption by BIS
 - ✓ Interest of adopting ADAS Standards, Digital Signature Library & e-Invoicing, Vitamins and Carotenoids, ICT Accessibility, European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), Lift & Escalators, Transport Services etc.

Important links

- Subscribe to SESEI newsletters (EU & India): <https://sesei.eu/subscribe-newsletter/>
- Indian Standardisation System: <https://sesei.eu/indian-standardization/indian-standardisation-system/>
- SESEI Reports: <https://sesei.eu/sesei-reports/>
- SESEI presentations: <https://sesei.eu/presentations/>
- EU-India Partnership instruments: <https://sesei.eu/eu-india/>
- Upcoming QCOs: <https://www.bis.gov.in/upcoming-qcos-notified-and-due-for-implementation/?lang=en>
- BIS – Standards: https://www.services.bis.gov.in/php/BIS_2.0/eBIS/
- BIS – Conformity Assessment: <https://www.bis.gov.in/>
- Recorded Session on Indian Standardisation Landscape: <https://youtu.be/B6USV7t3JCM>

thank you!

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