


No. 6/1/2021 – R&D (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Textiles

Udyog Bhawan
New Delhi, 27th September, 2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: **Stakeholder consultation for 28 technical textiles items to be brought under Quality Control Order (QCO) as well as the QCOs for Agrotech and Meditech items before their issuance in the Gazette of India – reg.**

The undersigned is directed to forward Minutes of the Stakeholder consultation for 28 technical textiles items to be brought under Quality Control Order (QCO) as well as the QCOs for Agrotech and Meditech items before their issuance in the Gazette of India held on 6th September 2023, under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (TTI), Ministry of Textiles for information and necessary action.


27/09/2023

JS(A)

Encl: As Above

Yours Faithfully,

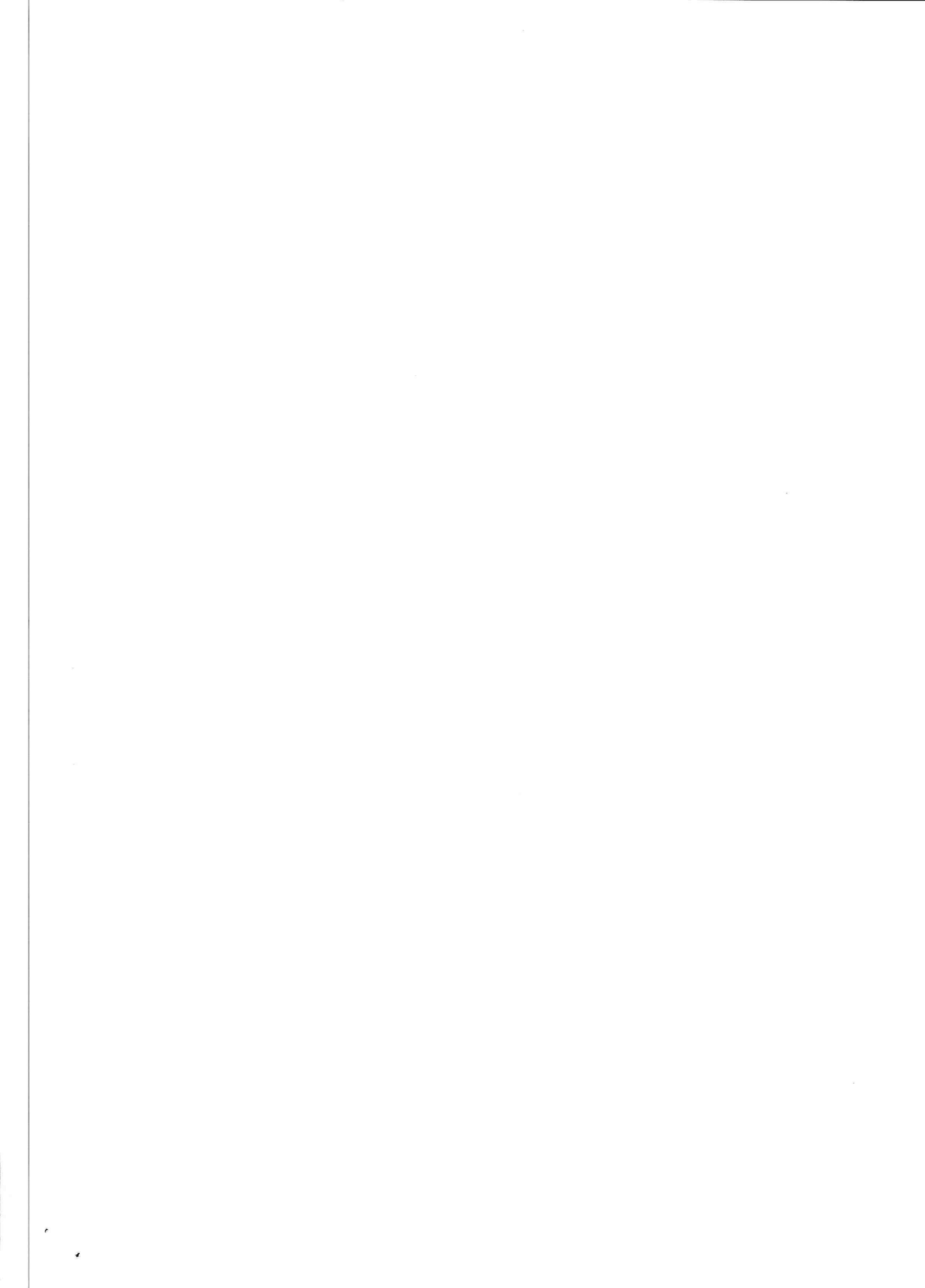


(Anuradha Sriram)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Email: anuradha.sriram@nic.in , Tel: 23063837

To,

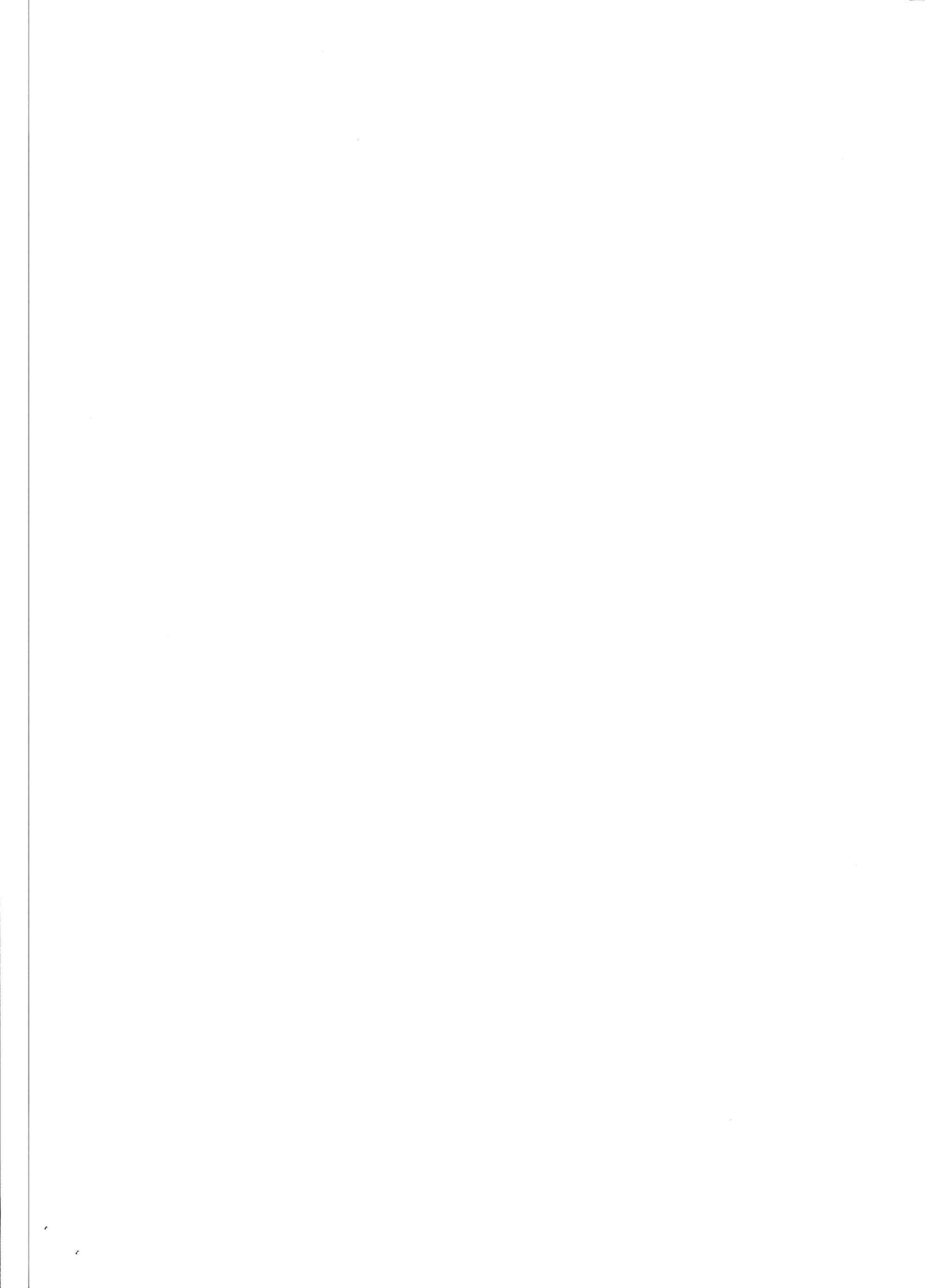
- (i) Shri J K Gupta, Head Textiles, BIS
- (ii) Shri Ajay Pandit, Joint Textile Commissioner (Technical), Office of the Textile Commissioner
- (iii) Shri Aditya Das, Scientist D, BIS
- (iv) Shri Anand Zambre, Executive Director, NCPAH, MoA&FW
- (v) Shri Aseem Sahu, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO
- (vi) Shri Ravindra Kumar, Deputy Director, (Horticulture) DA & FW
- (vii) Shri Rajesh Kumar Gulati, Deputy Director, CWC
- (viii) Dr. Dileep Krishna Mathi - Scientist - Department of Science And Technology (Dst)
- (ix) Dr. Shanmugasundaram O.L, Director, RDTE (i/c), CCRI



- (x) Dr Prakash Vasudevan, Director, The South India Textile Research Association (SITRA)
- (xi) Dr Manisha Mathur, Joint Director, The Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA)
- (xii) Smt. Deepali Plawat, Deputy Director, Ahmedabad Textiles Industry's research Association (ATIRA)
- (xiii) Shri T V Sreekumar, Director, The Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA)
- (xiv) CA Sanjay Chaudhary, Head Govt communication and coordination Delhi - Builders Association of India
- (xv) Shri Chetan Bijesure, Assistant Secretary General, FICCI – With a request to forward the minutes to the Industry partners
- (xvi) Shri Amit Agarwal, Chairman ITTA – With a request to forward the minutes to the Industry partners
- (xvii) Dr Anup Rakshit, ED, ITTA
- (xviii) Shri Rakesh Kumar Sangrai, Senior Secretary - International Exhibitions, National Expert Committee on Textiles and Packaging, PHDCCI – With a request to forward the minutes to the Industry partners
- (xix) All India Carpet Manufacturers' Association
- (xx) Central Wool Development Board
- (xxi) Shri Anil Kumar Vasupillai, Assistant Executive Director, Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA) – With a request to forward the minutes to the Industry partners

Copy to,

1. Joint Secretary (TTI), MoT
2. JMD (PI), NTTM



ANNEXURE

Minutes of Meeting Stakeholder consultation for 28 technical textiles items to be brought under Quality Control Order (QCO) as well as the QCOs for Agrotech and Meditech items before their issuance in the Gazette of India, under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles on 06th September 2023 at 15.00 hours in Hybrid mode in Room No. 152, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.

1. Meeting Agenda

This meeting was in extension to the meeting held on 28th June 2022 to review the list of 107 technical textiles items to be brought under QCO, following which Ministry of Textiles released QCOs for 31 items across Geo textiles, Protective textiles and is in process of releasing the QCO for 28 items of Agro textiles, and Medical textiles.

The primary objective of the meeting was to solicit feedback and opinions from various stakeholders concerning the 28 new technical textiles items across Geotech, Meditech, Buildtech, Ropes & Cordages, Floor Coverings and Indutech (detailed in Annexure I), as well as for 28 items of Agrotech and Meditech before their issuance in the Gazette of India. (Draft QCO for Meditech - Annexure II and Draft QCO for Agrotech - Annexure III)

2. Key Takeaways of the Meeting

Discussion on 28 items of Agrotech and Meditech before their issuance in the Gazette of India

22 Agrotech Items

Shri Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles

- Ministry of Textiles has already released 02 QCOs for 19 Geotech items and 12 Protech items on April 10, 2023. These QCOs will come into effect from October 7, 2023.
- Further, the mandatory 60-day period on the WTO website for 22 Agrotech items and 6 Meditech items has ended, allowing the issuance of QCOs for phase II.
- Stakeholders have raised concerns about some recent QCO items, such as cotton bales, VSF and others, following the release of the QCO. Therefore, to pre-empt concerns and ensure that multiple stakeholder feedback is incorporated, especially in overlapping products input is sought before formally releasing the QCO for Agrotech and Meditech products.
- Standard timeline of 180 days is allowed for the implementation of QCOs for 22 Agrotech items.
- In case of Medical Textiles items such as sanitary napkins and baby diapers - MSMEs are granted additional time, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are exempted, while the rest of the industry

	would be required to comply with BIS standards within 180 days' time period.
Shri Amit Agarwal, Chairman ITTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of IS 16008 (Part 1):2016 and IS 16008 (Part 2):2016 primarily pertains to their usage in agriculture and horticulture applications. However, if these nets are used for housing or construction purposes, it may pose challenges while implementing the QCOs. One notable distinction between shade nets used in agriculture and construction lies in the specific requirements for GSM.
Shri Chetan Bijesure, ASG, FICCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concern regarding shade nets was also raised during the 6th National Conclave on Standards for Technical Textiles. • In the realm of technical regulations, the challenge lies in the effective implementation, therefore, it is of utmost importance to promptly seek input and insights from builders, CPWD, and other relevant stakeholders to determine a suitable approach for differentiation.
Shri Saunak Banerjee, Consultant, CII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this situation, it is essential to engage in consultations with the builder association and other relevant stakeholders, as they possess the insights necessary to elucidate the actual implementation challenges and after gathering their inputs, collective conclusions may be arrived.
Dr Manish Mathur, Joint Director SASMIRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of QCOs for Agrotech shade nets is important given their critical role in agriculture. Not having QCO may negatively impact usage of such items by farmers as they may get discouraged by using substandard products.
Shri J K Gupta, Head Textiles, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested to expand the scope of shade net standard to have an extensive coverage and include all applications such as agriculture, horticulture, construction and others to ease out the QCO implementation, emphasize on sustainability aspect and the need for clarity in usage. • The extension of scope may be considered in the same standard or as a part of the standard, BIS shall deliberate this among the experts on fast-track basis, in order to avoid industry harassment or misuse of powers by any of the stakeholders.
06 Meditech Items	
Shri Rakesh Sahni, Director Government Affairs & Policy, Kenvue Shri Vijay-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were raised about the proposed inclusion of Sanitary napkins under QCO, particularly regarding its impact on small manufacturers catering to government schemes. • Industry suggested to keep the standard practice of voluntary certification rather than mandatory certification, to avoid limiting access to the product. It was mentioned that small-scale manufacturers would require more time and resources to

**Chaudhary,
Executive
Director,
Unicharm India
Pvt Ltd**

adhere to the proposed standards especially in reference to pH, absorbency, bacterial & fungal bioburden etc. The need for multiple timelines to absorb costs and increase awareness among consumers was stressed.

(Representatives CII)

Shri Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles

- Highlighted the need for a balance between consumer interests and industry compliance.
- MSMEs have an additional one year to match the level of regular industries and Self Help Groups (SHGs) are exempted from the QCO, which would support their growth & employment opportunities.
- Implementation of medical textiles QCOs is important as we are also importing substandard products in the country. After QCOs are implemented and all companies in India comply to QCO standards within 6 months, the QCOs will only apply to imports.

Shri Aseem Sahu, Deputy Drugs Controller (India) - CDSCO

- Reiterated the importance of having minimum standards for hygiene products to compete internationally and ensure consumer safety.

Shri J K Gupta, Head Textiles, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- Sanitary napkin is one of the very important safety items of mass consumption and the QCO implementation timeline is sufficient compared to the time for other products.
- There are about 150-200 sanitary napkin manufacturers in India and 25 licenses have already been issued so far for the industry. So about 10-15% of the industry is covered and a year is a long time for the MSMEs to comply with QCO conformity.

Shri Aditya Das, Scientist D, BIS

- BIS also addressed cost implications concern with regards to the testing of samples and availing of licenses BIS mentioned that they give concessions on certification fees, such as 80% concession for micro-scale industries and 50% concessions for small-scale industries is expected soon.

Discussion on 28 technical textiles items across Geotech, Meditech, Buildtech, Ropes & Cordages, Floor Coverings and Indutech

Shri Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles

- Previously stakeholder engagement was organized by Ministry on 28th February 2023 for the third phase QCOs covering 28 technical textiles items and subsequently these draft QCOs were uploaded on the Ministry website. Some stakeholder comments have also been received on these 28 items, however

	<p>it is crucial to review & discuss each item once again and gather diverse perspectives from both direct and indirect users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These 28 items include floor coverings, building textiles, meditech, geotech as well as multi-user items like ropes and cordages, and industrial textiles. Meditech items under the purview of the CDSCO will not be considered for QCO issuance under the Ministry of Textiles. • For the third phase items, general timeline of 180 days is proposed for normal industries, with an additional 3 months for small and micro industries to provide them sufficient time to prepare for the compliance. • Items with multiple users may require the modification in standards basis stakeholder feedback.
<p>Shri Anil Kumar Vasupillai. Additional Executive Director ITTA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed addition of IS 14597:1998 (Synthetic tarpaulins (Heavy duty protective covers) made from coated nylon or polyester fabrics) and also recommended revising standard IS 17478:2020 for ropes to include PP and polyester floor carpets.
<p>Ms. Angeline Divya - AVP & Head of Department - SRF Limited (Representative CII)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested to include IS 14597:1998 under Indutech QCOs, the standard is already under voluntary certification.
<p>Dr. Shanmugasundaram O.L, Director, RDTE (i/c), CCRI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that coir mats and matting are being manufactured by several small and medium scale manufacturers. Implementation of mandatory certification should not affect the micro/small/medium scale manufacturers and hence phase wise implementation of the QCO in the above products by providing sufficient time may be considered. • To facilitate the implementation of certification for coir mats/mattings, requested Bureau of India Standards (BIS) to explore the possibility of conducting testing at a common facility centre, instead or requiring each industry to establish its own testing facility. • Also proposed to organise discussions with the trade on setting up the time frame for the implementation of QCO in Coir floor furnishings. After discussion with the manufacturers Coir Board can intimate the time frame on phase wise implementation of QCO in Coir mats/mattings.
<p>Shri Nitin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended the inclusion of standard IS 18158:2023 for

Goyal, Vice President, Group Indirect Tax Welspun

artificial grass in the floor coverings QCOs and also mentioned that other floor coverings, such as those made from polyvinyl chloride and other raw material may also be included under QCOs and these are already under committee discussion at BIS.

Shri Ravindra Kumar, Deputy Director, (Horticulture) DA & FW

- Highlighted Flexible Water Storage Tank (IS 17729 : 2021) may have concerns similar to those of shade nets, however BIS clarified that Water Storage Tank is with distinct material and it may not overlap with LDPE tank or HDPE Multi layer tank, as BIS has 7 to 8 types of standards for hard tanks. Water Storage Tank IS 17729 : 2021 is the flexible tank used in hilly area to store water.

3. Decisions of the Meeting

- Extend the scope of BIS standards for shade nets to cover the construction industry as well as for uniform QCO applicability across all applications.
- Issue the QCOs for 20 Agrotech items immediately and address the remaining two items - Shade Nets (Tape yarn) corresponding IS 16008 (Part 1):2016 and Shade Nets (Monofilament yarn) corresponding IS 16008 (Part 2):2016, in the next phase.
- Issue QCOs for all 06 items of Meditech.
- The proposed 02 new items discussed in the meeting, to be included in the 3rd phase draft QCO items are as listed under
 - a) Synthetic tarpaulins (Heavy Duty Protective Covers) made from coated nylon or polyester fabrics specification (**IS 14597 : 1998**) – Under Indutech Category
 - b) Textile Floor Covering - Artificial Grass Carpet made of Synthetic Yarn for Landscape Specification (**IS 18158 : 2023**) - Under Floor Coverings Category

The Meeting concluded with emphasis on the importance of cooperation among stakeholders and mutual understanding to address any potential issues for implementation and success of the QCOs issued by the Ministry.

Annexure – I (List of technical textiles items to be added to be brought under QCOs by Ministry of Textiles as discussed in the Stakeholder Meeting)

Sl. No.	Sector	No. of Products
1	Geotech	01
2	Medtech	03
3	Buildtech	03
4	Ropes & Cordage	10
5	Floor Coverings	09
6	Indutech	04
Total		30

Geotech

Sl. No.	IS Number	Product Title	Present Status
1	17880 :2022	Geosynthetics — Synthetic Polymer Rope Gabions for Coastal and Waterways Protection — Specification	Not under certification

Medical Textiles

Sl. No.	IS Number	Product Title	Present Status
1	17786 :2022	Medical Textiles — Underpad — Specification	Not under certification
2	17787 :2021	Medical Textiles — Nonwoven Wipes — Specification	Not under certification
3	17788:2021	Medical Textiles — Nonwoven Fabric for Wipes — Specification	Not under certification

Buildtech

Sl. No.	IS Number	Product Title	Present Status
1	12989 : 2016	Camping tents	Not under certification
2	15272 : 2020	Textiles — Awnings for Leisure Accommodation Vehicles — Requirements and Test Methods	Not under certification
3	11057 : 1984	Specification for industrial safety nets	Not under certification

Ropes and Cordage

Sl. No.	IS Number	Product Title	Present Status
1	1084:2005	Textiles – Manila ropes	Already under certification (voluntary)
2	11066:2022	Fibre ropes- Polyester 3-, 4-, 8- and 12- strand ropes	Already under certification (voluntary)
3	14928:2001	Textiles - Composite synthetic fibre ropes	Already under certification (voluntary)
4	14929: 2022	Textiles - Mixed Polyolefin Fibre Ropes	Already under certification (voluntary)
5	1804:2004	Steel wire ropes – Fibre main cores	Already under certification (voluntary)
6	1912:2023	Textiles - Country jute twine - Specification	Already under certification (voluntary)
7	4572:2022	Fibre ropes – Polyamide 3- 4- 8- and 12-Strand ropes	Already under certification (voluntary)
8	5175:2022	Fibre ropes – Polypropylene split film, monofilament and multifilament (PP2) and polypropylene high- tenacity multifilament (PP3) – 3-, 4-, 8- and 12-strand ropes	Already under certification (voluntary)
9	8674 : 2013	Fibre ropes Polyethylene 3- and 4 -strand ropes	Not under certification
10	17609 : 2021	Fibre ropes of polyester / polyolefin dual fibres	Not under certification

Floor Coverings

Sl. No.	IS Number	Product Title	Present Status
1	17478 : 2020	Textile Floor Covering — Wall to Wall Carpets Made of Polyamide(Nylon) Yarn — Specification	Not under certification
2	17479 : 2023	Textile Floor Covering - Carpet Tiles Made of Synthetic Yarn - Specification	Not under certification
3	17757 : 2022	Textiles Automotive Tufted Floor Covering - Specification	Not under certification
4	17758 : 2022	Textiles Automotive Non-woven Carpet/ Mat - Specification	Not under certification
5	11420 (Part 1 to 9) : 2020	Specification for Coir Mats	Not under certification
6	12503 (Part 1 to 6) : 2020	Coir - Mattings mourzouks and carpets	Not under certification
7	17734 : 2022	PVC /Latex Tufted Coir Mats - Specification	Not under certification
8	5884 : 2020	Textile Floor Covering - Hand Tufted Carpets - Specification	Not under certification
9	18158 : 2023	Textile Floor Covering — Artificial Grass Carpet Made Of Synthetic Yarn For Landscape — Specification	Not under certification

Indutech

Sl. No.	Product Title	No of Licenses	Present Status
1	1422 : 1983	Specification for cotton duck	Already under certification (voluntary)
2	7903:2017	Textiles – Tarpaulins made from high density polyethylene (HDPE) woven fabrics	Already under certification(voluntary)
3	14597 :1998	Textiles - Synthetic tarpaulins (Heavy duty protective covers) made from coated nylon or polyester fabrics	Already under certification (voluntary)
4	15041:2001	Textiles – Flat woven webbing slings made of man-made fibres for general services	Already under certification (voluntary)

Annexure - II

List of participants of Stakeholder consultation for 28 technical textiles items to be brought under Quality Control Order (QCO) as well as the QCOs for Agrotech and Meditech items before their issuance in the Gazette of India, under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles on 06th September 2023 at 15.00 hours in Hybrid mode in Room No. 162, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.

- Shri Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles
- Shri J K Gupta, Head Textiles, BIS
- Shri Prashant Meena, Joint Mission Director, NTTM
- Shri Ajay Pandit, Joint Textile Commissioner (Technical), Office of the Textile Commissioner
- Shri Aditya Das, Scientist D, BIS
- Shri Anand Zambre, Executive Director, NCPAH, MoA&FW
- Shri Aseem Sahu, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO
- Shri Ravindra Kumar, Deputy Director, (Horticulture) DA & FW
- Shri Rajesh Kumar Gulati, Deputy Director, CWC
- Dr. Dileep Krishna Mathi - Scientist - Department of Science And Technology (Dst)
- Dr. Shanmugasundaram O.L, Director, RDTE (i/c), CCRI
- Dr Prakash Vasudevan, Director, SITRA
- Dr Manisha Mathur, Joint Director, SASMIRA
- Smt. Deepali Plawat, Deputy Director, ATIRA
- CA Sanjay Chaudhary, Head Govt communication and coordination Delhi - Builders Association of India
- Shri Chetan Bijesure, Assistant Secretary General, FICCI
- Shri Amit Agarwal, Chairman ITTA
- Dr Anup Rakshit, ED, ITTA
- Shri Rakesh Kumar Sangrai Senior Secretary - International Exhibitions, National Expert Committee on Textiles and Packaging, PHDCCI
- Shri Ajay Sardana, President & Head Strategy & Business Development- Polyester, Reliance Industries Limited
- Shri Makarand Mehendale, President, Obeetee

- Shri Nitin Goyal, Vice President, Group Indirect Tax, Welspun
- Shri Vijay-Chaudhary, Executive Director, Unicharm India Pvt Ltd
- Shri Rakesh Sahni, Director Government Affairs & Policy, Kenvue
- Shri Saurabh Khandelwal, Director, Ferretero
- Ms. Angeline Divya - AVP & Head of Department - SRF Limited
- Shri Anil Kumar Vasupillai Additional Executive Director ITTA
- Dr Prasanta Panda, BTRA
- Shri Saunak Banerjee, Consultant, CII
- Shri Rajendra Ghadge, Senior Manager, Garware Technical Fibres Limited
- Shri Sachin Kulkarni, Assistant General Manager, Garware Technical Fibers Limited
- Shri Srinath Vanaparti, AGM, Quality Assurance, Welspun Flooring
- Shri Dweep Agrawal, Company Manager, Matfab Polymers.
- Shri Abhishek Chandan, Skpi India
- Shri Naveen Gupta, Star Safety Hub
- All India Carpet Manufacturers' Association
- Central Wool Development Board
