



No. 5/6/2025-Deregulation

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA / भारत सरकार
CABINET SECRETARIAT/ मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN / राष्ट्रपति भवन

New Delhi, dated May, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Inter-Ministerial Group on Quality Control Order (QCO) Assessment – reg.

Quality Control Orders (QCOs) are issued from time to time by the concerned line Ministry in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Implementation of such QCOs often has consequences for sectors handled by other Ministries. There are also instances of differences of views on the content of/need for QCOs. In order to promote a "Whole of Government" approach, the following instructions are issued:

2. When a Ministry/Department initiates a proposal for a QCO, it should be referred to an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) of Officers to assess and evaluate the proposal, apart from the consultation with BIS. The Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) of Officers will have the following composition:

- (i) Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs – Chair
- (ii) Representative of Department of Commerce*
- (iii) Representative of DPIIT*
- (iv) Representative of Department of Consumer Affairs*
- (v) Representative of DG, BIS*
- (vi) Representative of Chief Economic Adviser*
- (vii) Representative of other Departments of Government of India, as required for the item under consideration, for sectors which may be favourably or unfavourably impacted*

* Officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary

3. The Terms of Reference of the IMG will be:

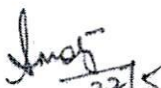
- (i) To assess and evaluate QCOs proposed by Ministries/Departments, and make recommendations
- (ii) To examine requests from Ministries/Departments for reconsideration, review or modification of existing QCOs

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4. In its work, the IMG shall keep the following in view:

- (i) It shall classify the intended purpose of each proposal in line with Section 16(1) of the BIS Act 2016:
 - (a) Protection of human, animal or plant health; Safety of the environment
 - (b) Public Interest (e.g. upholding India's export credibility)
 - (c) Prevention of unfair trade practices (e.g. by suppliers in other countries)
 - (d) National Security (e.g. strategic considerations of promoting localization of production, indigenous manufacturing)
- (ii) In cases of unfair trade practices, it may assess whether the problem is generic and cross-cutting or country specific.
- (iii) The IMG may use quantitative criteria such as a scoring methodology of restrictiveness, and qualitative criteria based on relative merits/demerits. It shall have special regard for the interests of Indian MSMEs. It may explore/examine the possibility of graded standards, specifying different quality levels for the same product, alternate ways of implementing QCOs such as exempting Indian manufacturers who meet a 'de minimis' standard from the requirement of obtaining BIS licenses, self certification, third party certification etc.
- (iv) In case the QCO imposes standards that are not aligned with international standards, there should be a strong justification which should be recorded, keeping in mind the costs which may arise to exporters and others from such differential standards.

5. Ministries/Departments should obtain the recommendations of the IMG before notifying any QCO, from the date of issue of this OM.


(Sweta Mohanty)
Director
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To

1. Secretary, D/o Economic Affairs
2. Secretary, D/o Commerce
3. Secretary, D/o Consumer Affairs
4. Secretary, D/for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
5. Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
6. Chief Economic Adviser
7. Secretaries of all other Ministries/Departments


(Sweta Mohanty)
Director

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