

F. No. 11/51/2016- BIS
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & PD
Department of Consumer Affairs
(BIS Section)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated the 20th July, 2023

To

**The Director General (BIS),
Bureau of Indian Standards,
9, Manak Bhavan,
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi-110002**

Sub: Minutes of the meeting regarding Indian Standard 10116:2015 (Boric Acid - specification) held on 11.07.2023 at 5.30 PM in Committee Room No. 46 (Jagriti) Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi - regarding

Madam,

I am directed to refer to the subject mentioned above and to forward herewith the minutes of the meeting regarding Indian Standard 10116:2015 (Boric Acid - specification) held on 11.07.2023 for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,



(Roshan Burman)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

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Copy to :

- i) Shri P.S. Haridas, Navin Flouring International Ltd, Mumbai
- ii) Shri Prof. B. N. Thorat, ICT.
- iii) Shri Anand Shetty, MD, Organic Industries Pvt Ltd.
- iv) Shri R. Janakiraman, President & Chief Supply Chain Officer, Padmanabh Mafatlal Group.
- v) Shri Sajal Jain, Managing Director, Indo Borax & Chemicals Ltd. Mumbai.
- vi) Dr. G.D. Mehta, Borochemie Raj Borax

Copy also to:

- i) PSO to Secretary(CA), DoCA.
- ii) Sr. PPS to AS(CA), DoCA.
- iii) Sr. PPS to JS(VM), DoCA.
- iv) DS(BIS), DoCA.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING TO REVIEW THE BORIC ACID RELATED
ISSUES HELD ON 11TH JULY, 2023 AT KRISHI BHAWAN**

A meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary (Consumer Affairs) on 11th July 2023 at 5.30 pm in "Jagriti" Room Number 46, Krishi Bhawan (New Delhi) to discuss issues relating to the Boric Acid with various stakeholders and BIS officials. List of participants is at **Annex-I**.

1. At the outset, Head (Chemical Dept), BIS gave a presentation highlighting the developments so far on this Boric acid issue, which are as under:

i) The Indian Standard IS 10116:2015 classifies Boric acid into 3 grades;

a) **Special quality (SQ)**, for use in capacitors, electronics nuclear energy, foundries and fire proofing of workman's apparel;

b) **Technical (TECH)**, for use in glass, ceramics, refractories, paints, chemicals, dye intermediates, electroplating, leather, adhesives and enamel industries, talc powder, ramming mass and as carom board powder; and

c) **Explosive grade**.

ii) The Indian Standard prescribes that in addition to meeting the requirements for Boric acid and moisture, the technical grade shall also comply with the following additional requirements of polishing compounds

a) Chloride (Cl), percent by mass: 0.05 – 0.15

b) Sulphate (SO₄) percent by mass: 0.15 – 0.25

iii) M/s Organic Industries had informed that they are manufacturing the technical grade Boric acid with low levels of chloride and sulphate i.e. 0.00 – 0.15% max, and 0.00 – 0.25 % max respectively. They claimed that since chloride and sulphate are impurities, the Indian Standard should only specify maximum values instead of a range.

iii) BIS informed that, the issue raised by M/s Organic Industries was discussed during a panel meeting held by BIS on 06.06.2023. During the deliberations, it was clarified by the concerned experts that chloride and sulphate are not impurities, rather they are additives. However, the committee further decided to invite the views of the affected user industries associations in this regard, based on which a suitable conclusion could be arrived at.

iv) BIS further informed that as discussed in the previous meeting held on 7th June 2023 on this issue which was chaired by Secretary (CA), it was decided that the

Technical Committee shall be requested to look into specifying subgrades under technical grade for polishing compounds and non-polishing compound applications where the limits specified for chloride and sulphate may be removed/relaxed for the technical subgrade for non-polishing compound applications. Accordingly, this matter was discussed during a meeting of the Technical Committee held on 19 June 2023. It was noted that out of the 15 user industries' associations which had been requested to give their views on the matter, 13 associations had responded stating that they are all in favour of retaining the range of chlorides and sulphides whereas 4 individual industries had written to BIS stating that Boric acid should have lesser levels of chlorides and sulphates.

vi) In the Technical Committee meeting, after deliberating on the issue, it was decided that the range of chloride and sulphates as currently prescribed in the Standard be retained as of now and a research-based study/project by an R&D Institute such as ICT Mumbai may be initiated and be completed within a timeframe of 4-6 months. Based on the outcome of this research project, revision of the Standard may be further taken up, if required. Subsequently, BIS has written to ICT Mumbai to take up this study/project.

2. In this regard, M/s Organic Industries reiterated their demand that since they are manufacturing Boric acid with low levels of chloride and sulphates (less than that specified in the Indian Standard), therefore the values for chloride and sulphate specified for technical grade boric acid should be in terms of maximum permitted and proposed to revise the chloride and sulphates contents by putting a max limit (Chloride - 0.15 max, Sulphate – 0.25 max).

3. M/s Indo Borax, another BIS licensee for Boric acid, reiterated their stand as given during the technical committee meeting that no changes to be made in the Sulphate and Chloride ranges prescribed for the Technical Grade of Boric Acid as this product is used in several applications such as ramming mass in induction furnace where the presence of these elements is essential for optimum performance. They informed that the polishing compounds - sulphate and chloride- are not impurities rather they are intentionally added to technical grade boric acid to provide the required properties.

4. M/s Navin Fluorine, one of the customers of M/s Organic Industries, informed that they are importing Boric acid for manufacturing boron trifluoride, and that they require Boric acid with low levels of chloride and sulphates (less than that specified in the Indian Standard) and their final product i.e. boron trifluoride is meant for export. They informed that they had approached DGFT for exempting the boric acid imported by them since their final product is meant for export but were told by

DGFT that NOC has to be obtained from BIS. It was clarified by BIS that NOC/exemption from QCOs is not in the purview of BIS but the concerned Ministry/Department which has issued the QCO i.e. DCPC in case of Boric acid

5. It was noted that for explosive grade, the requirement given in the standard is in consonance with what Organic Industries want (Chloride: 0.03% max, and Sulphate: 0.10% max). As such, they can produce the Boric acid under explosive grade instead of technical grade which would be in compliance with the standard. However, Organic Industries reiterated that they wish to sell their product under technical grade only as per the market demand as there are certain stringent conditions to be followed if Explosive grade is to be used, which can be cumbersome for the industries.

6. Dr. Kannan Srinivasan, Director, CSIR - Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar and Chairman of CHD 01 (Inorganic Chemicals Sectional Committee) stated that this issue was deliberated at length during the meeting of the Technical Committee and a considered view was taken on the basis of these deliberations, to retain the ranges of chloride and sulphate for technical grade Boric acid given in the standard currently, pending the results of the research project. He also stressed upon the need to ensure that any changes in the standards should not end up in giving an advantage to foreign manufacturers over Indian manufacturers.

7. The Chair requested BIS to consider the views given by various stakeholders during the deliberations and to expedite the research project so that the matter can be brought to a logical conclusion in the next 3 to 4 months.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

1. Ms. Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary, DoCA.
2. Shri. Vineet Mathur, Joint Secretary, DoCA.
3. Shri. Pramod Kumar Sahoo, Deputy Secretary, BIS.
4. Shri. Ajay Kumar Lal, Scientist –F & Head (CHD) BIS.
5. Shri. Aditya Das, Scientist-D BIS.
6. Shri. Sagar Singh, Scientist-D BIS.

7. Shri. P.S. Haridas, Navin Flourine International Ltd. Mumbai.
8. Shri. Sajal Jain, Indo Borax & Chemicals Ltd.
9. Shri. Lakshmi Menon, Indo Borax & Chemicals Ltd.
10. MS. Saumya Jain, Indo Borax Chemicals.
11. Shri. Dr. G. D. Mehta, Borochemie Raj Borax Pvt. Ltd.
12. Shri. Pravir Anand Shetty, Organic Industries Pvt. Ltd.
13. Shri. Sritam Kumar Mishra, Organic Industries Pvt. Ltd.
14. Shri. Anand Shetty, Organic Industries Pvt. Ltd.
15. Shri. Prof. B.N. Thorat, ICT.

Online attendee

16. Dr. K Srinivasan, Chairman, Technical Committee
17. Dr. Vishal Chaudhary, Deputy Industrial Advisor, DCPC
18. Dr. Anil kishore
19. Shri A. K Pradhan, JD
20. Shri Buddh Prakash
21. Professor Dr. V. R. Kanethar