

Empanelment of Government Laboratories by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

1. Background:

1.1. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) serves as the National Standards Body of India, entrusted with the crucial task of ensuring the quality, safety, and reliability of products through its Conformity Assessment Schemes. Under the BIS Act 2016, Section 13 (4), BIS is empowered to establish, maintain, or recognize testing laboratories to fulfill its mandate. To bolster its testing infrastructure and meet the escalating demand for product certification, BIS has undertaken significant initiatives to augment existing laboratories, establish new ones, and empanel external laboratories, including those operated by government entities and educational institutions.

2. Purpose of Empanelment of Government Laboratories:

Empanelling government laboratories by BIS serves multiple strategic objectives in ensuring the development of quality infrastructure in the country:

2.1. Augmentation of Testing Capacity:

2.1.1. With the increasing number of products under mandatory certification through Quality Control Orders (QCOs), there is a heightened demand for testing services. Empanelling government laboratories expands BIS's testing network, enabling it to handle a larger volume of samples efficiently.

2.2. Ensuring Quality and Reliability:

2.2.1. Government laboratories often possess specialized expertise and advanced testing facilities. Empanelment ensures that these laboratories adhere to BIS standards, thereby maintaining the consistency and reliability of test results across the board.

2.3. Support for Industry Compliance:

2.3.1. Integrating government laboratories into the BIS network provides industries with easier access to accredited testing services. This facilitates compliance with mandatory certification requirements, reducing the burden on individual businesses.

2.4. Enhancing Geographical Reach:

2.4.1. Empanelling laboratories in various regions, especially where industries are concentrated, enhances geographical coverage. This ensures that manufacturers across the country have convenient access to BIS testing services.

3. Process of Empanelment:

The empanelment process of government laboratories by BIS involves several key steps:

- 3.1.** For empanelment, a laboratory is required to register on the BIS Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) portal by creating an account. The Web URL of the LIMS portal is <https://lims.bis.gov.in>.
- 3.2.** For the registration, the laboratory is required to follow the steps given in the "User Manual" available at the LIMS webpage and create an account by selecting the "Empanelled Lab under Group 2" option while creating an account.
- 3.3.** The account shall be created using **Organisational Email ID** instead of a personal one, as the email id CANNOT be changed in future.

- 3.4. After creating the account, the lab shall login and fill the necessary details on the LIMS application page related to the organisational structure, quality management system, test equipment, test parameters, manpower etc and submit the application.
- 3.5. The details of the existing Indian Standards developed by BIS are available at the weblink https://www.services.bis.gov.in/php/BIS_2.0/bisconnect/knowyourstandards/Indian_standards/isdetails/
- 3.6. The submitted application generates a unique alpha-numeric application ID which can be referred while communicating with BIS.
- 3.7. The submitted application is scrutinised by the BIS officials at the Laboratory Recognition and Management Department (LRMD) and in case any discrepancies are found the application is referred back to the laboratory on the LIMS portal for corrections/modification.
- 3.8. If the submitted application is found satisfactory and all the queries related to the discrepancies are successfully addressed, the case is processed for the empanelment of the laboratory on desktop audit/onsite audit basis.
- 3.9. After the completion of empanelment process, the laboratory is required to create specific roles for its personnel in its LIMS account for accepting and carrying out testing of the samples under BIS Conformity Assessment Schemes. The detailed instructions for creation of roles and sample handling process are given in the “User Manual” available on the LIMS website and the LIMS account of the laboratory.
- 3.10. All communications related to the application/empanelment shall be made to the LRMD at the email ID: lrmd-bis@bis.gov.in (LRMD-BIS@BIS.GOV.IN).

4. Benefits of Empanelment:

Empanelment of government laboratories by BIS offers significant benefits to both BIS and the empanelled entities:

4.1. Enhanced Testing Capacity:

4.1.1. Integrating government laboratories significantly increases BIS’s testing capacity, ensuring timely processing of certification applications and maintaining high standards of quality assurance.

4.2. Access to Advanced Infrastructure:

4.2.1. BIS will gain access to the Laboratories’ state-of-the-art infrastructure and sophisticated testing equipment, enabling BIS to offer high-quality testing services to the industry that meet international norms.

4.3. Improved Industry Support:

4.3.1. Empanelled labs provide industries with reliable and accredited testing services, facilitating smoother compliance with BIS’s Conformity Assessment Schemes and Quality Control Orders.

4.4. Knowledge and Skill Development:

4.4.1. Collaboration with BIS provides laboratories with opportunities for training and skill development, enhancing the expertise of their personnel in modern testing methodologies and quality management practices.

4.5. Strengthened National Standards Framework:

4.5.1. Empanelment contributes to a robust national standards framework by ensuring widespread availability of accredited testing facilities, promoting uniformity and reliability in product quality across the country.

4.6. Reduction of Testing Charges:

4.6.1. By expanding the network of empanelled laboratories, BIS can rationalise the testing charges, thereby making certification more affordable and accessible to manufacturers.

For enhancement of the testing infrastructure in the country, BIS proactively reaches out to educational institutions, large and medium-scale manufacturers, and government entities with existing testing facilities. The empanelment of government laboratories by the Bureau of Indian Standards is a strategic initiative aimed at strengthening India's testing infrastructure and ensuring the quality, safety, and reliability of products under BIS's Conformity Assessment Schemes.

By enhancing testing capacity, supporting industry compliance, and providing financial and infrastructural incentives, empanelment fosters a collaborative environment that benefits both BIS and the empanelled laboratories. This initiative not only addresses the current demands of mandatory certification but also paves the way for future growth and excellence in India's standards and quality assurance landscape.

NOTE: For any assistance in this regard, please write to:

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Email:

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Important Links:

1. Bureau of Indian Standards Official Website: (<https://www.bis.gov.in>)
2. Laboratory Information Management System Portal (LIMS): (<https://lims.bis.gov.in>)
3. Know Your Standard portal for information on the Indian Standards for scope submission: (https://www.services.bis.gov.in/php/BIS_2.0/bisconnect/knowyourstandards/Indian_standards/isdetails/)