

## IS 336:2021 Ether: What Consumers Need to Know

Ether is a flammable liquid commonly used as a solvent in industries, laboratories including extraction of oils and fats. It is also used extensively as an **anaesthetic**. Its quick evaporation and ability to dissolve various substances make it valuable in these settings. Ethers are a class of compounds that contain an ether group—an oxygen atom bonded to two alkyl or aryl groups. However, because it is volatile and poses health and safety risks, it needs to meet strict quality standards.

From a consumer's perspective, good quality ether is expected to have several key attributes. High purity is essential, meaning it should have minimal impurities to ensure reliable performance across different uses and to prevent unwanted reactions. Consumers also expect ether to be chemically stable when stored under recommended conditions, as stability helps avoid changes that could compromise both safety and effectiveness. Additionally, consumers look for ether that limits peroxide formation, as peroxides are hazardous and can become highly explosive over time. Finally, safe and secure packaging is a priority, with consumers expecting ether to be contained in leak-proof packaging to reduce exposure risks and ensure safe storage, given its flammability.

The Indian Standard IS 336:2021 specifies two grades, namely, **solvent and anaesthetic**. The standard plays a crucial role in **safeguarding consumers by setting strict guidelines that manufacturers must follow to ensure the safety, stability, and quality of product**. This standard provides comprehensive specifications for purity, ensuring that **ether meets industrial and pharmaceutical-grade requirements** with minimal impurities. It also addresses critical safety concerns by **limiting peroxide levels**, helping to reduce the risk of explosions and other hazards.

Additionally, IS 336:2021 mandates secure and leak-proof packaging, reducing the risk of leaks, contamination, and exposure.

By enforcing these quality and safety requirements, IS 336:2021 not only enhances consumer confidence but also ensures that ether products on the market meet high standards for safe and effective use across industries and in pharmaceuticals.