

File No. 313-12/5/2025-S AND QC
Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
(Standards & Quality Control Division)

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Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Updating Model No. of Solar PV Modules in Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Registration

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has notified the “Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025” (Quality Control Order i.e., QCO) vide gazette notification dated 27th January 2025, inter alia covering Solar PV Modules, under which the specified products are required to conform to the applicable Indian Standards and bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The QCO also provides for BIS as the certification and enforcement authority. Further, the Ministry has issued revised Guidelines for Series Approval of SPV Modules dated 19th December 2025. The aforesaid QCO, Series Guidelines and applicable BIS requirements do not prescribe a specific nomenclature/model-number format to be adopted by the manufacturer. The manufacturer presently has flexibility in assigning the model number, subject to applicable marking and registration requirements.

To establish a clear, consistent and verifiable mechanism for traceability, the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being issued for Solar PV Module manufacturers, BIS and BIS-recognized/approved test laboratories:

A. Model-number identification

(i) For all new registrations/inclusions of Solar PV Module’s models, the manufacturers shall assign a distinct four-character country identifier as a suffix to their existing/identified model number. The suffix shall comprise:

- **First two characters:** ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country code corresponding to the country where the Solar PV Module manufacturing unit is located; and
- **Next two characters:** ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country code corresponding to the country where the Solar Cells incorporated in that particular BOM are manufactured.

Accordingly, the suffix shall follow the format:

Original/identified Model Number - MMCC

where **MM** = **country code of module manufacturing** and **CC** = **country code of solar cell manufacturing**.

The four-character suffix shall form an integral part of the model number for purposes of BIS registration/certification and subsequent identification of the model.

(ii) Where a manufacturer has more than one BOM under the same original model number and the BOMs contain cells manufactured in different countries, separate model numbers with corresponding country identifiers shall be created for each such BOM configuration. A single suffixed model number shall not be permitted to cover BOMs containing solar cells manufactured in different countries.

(iii) Where more than one solar cell manufacturer is used under a particular model, the use of solar cells from more than one manufacturer shall be permissible if all such cell manufacturers are from same country and the approved BOM clearly identifies each cell manufacturer and the relevant cell details.

B. Existing BIS-registered models

(i) All existing Solar PV Module models registered with BIS shall be required to create corresponding additional model numbers with the four-character country identifier as detailed in A (i) above. For each such model number, the manufacturer shall submit BOM details restricting or separating the solar cells to the particular country identified by the last two characters of the suffix. The BOM details shall be submitted through the existing BIS application/inclusion procedure.

(ii) Where creation of the additional model number involves only deletion or restriction or separation of one or more already-approved solar cells/cell variants from the existing BOM and does not involve addition or modification of any BOM or component, material, manufacturing process or design, no fresh testing shall be required. The original test report shall be relied upon, subject to documentary verification of the revised BOM by the test laboratory. BIS shall issue the necessary direction/clarification to the concerned test laboratories in this regard.

(iii) The test laboratory, upon satisfactory verification, shall issue a supplementary test report containing the newly created additional model number, revised BOM (restricted or separated or deleted from existing BOM), referenced to the original test report. Since no fresh testing is required in such cases, no testing fee shall be charged for such supplementary reports except the applicable charges w.r.t. applicable clauses like marking /documentation, etc.

(iv) BIS shall, subject to fulfilment of all applicable requirements, issue a revised BIS certificate/addendum to the existing certificate incorporating the newly created model number(s).

(v) Verification by Test Laboratories:

(1) The manufacturer shall submit the following details to the test laboratory along with the application for addition/inclusion of the model:

- Original test report(s) of existing BOM of registered model(s);
- Revised BOM applicable to the new proposed model number;

- Solar cell model number (except in case of thin-film Solar module);
- Name & address of the solar cell manufacturer(s) including country;
- A declaration confirming that all solar cells covered under the particular suffixed model are manufactured in the country represented by the last two characters of the model-number suffix.

(2) The test laboratory shall verify the revised BOM for the proposed model no. against the original test report and ensure that:

- a. The module manufacturing location/s corresponds to the first two characters of the suffix;
- b. The manufacturing country of the solar cell(s) corresponds to the last two characters of the suffix;
- c. Solar Cell/s used in BOM are manufactured only in one country as used in suffix (point b above).
- d. The revised BOM does not introduce any new component, material, design change or manufacturing-process change requiring testing under the applicable series/retesting guidelines.
- e. Upon satisfactory documentary verification, the test laboratory shall issue the supplementary test report, without conducting fresh testing in cases covered under paragraph B(ii) above. The supplementary report shall clearly refer to the original test report based on which the additional model has been created.

(vi) In case there is addition of new BOM, the retesting guidelines, series guidelines and the SOP for Model no. Identification will be followed as applicable.

C. Applicability of the directions

(i) The manufacturers of existing BIS-registered models of PV Modules shall comply with above model number requirements by submitting the requisite application(s) timely for creation of country-coded additional model number(s) to complete the BIS registration process within 180 days from the date of issue of OM by MNRE.

(ii) With effect from 180 days from the date of issue of OM, all applications for registration, inclusion or addition of Solar PV Module models shall comply with the above model-number identification mechanism. BIS shall not accept/process a new model for registration where the prescribed model number and corresponding BOM requirements have not been complied with, as applicable.

(iii) BIS and all concerned test laboratories are requested to take necessary action for implementation of the above mechanism and to suitably modify/issue necessary instructions in their respective registration, inclusion, test-report and certification processes.

(iv) The complete country-coded model number approved by BIS shall be used consistently in the product label/markings as per series guidelines, test report, BIS certificate, module data sheet and other documents wherever the model number is required to be declared.