

Receipt No. 1656077/2022/O/o Secy (RT&H)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways  
(CE (Planning & QC/New Technology) Zone)

Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi- 110001

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/ UTs.
2. The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of all States/ UTs Public Works Department/ Road Construction Department/ Highways Department (dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes).
3. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110 075.
4. The Managing Director, NHIDCL, PTI Building, New Delhi-110001.
5. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi- 110 010.
6. All Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Department of States/ UTs/ Road Construction Department/ Highways Departments (dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes).
7. All CE-ROs, ROs and ELOs of the Ministry.

**Subject: Achieving Global Quality Standards and NABL Accreditation of Laboratories -Reg**

The undersigned is directed to refer to D.O.No.P-12013/5/2022-NPC-QCI dated 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 from Shri Anurag Jain, Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the subject noted above. (A copy of the D.O., 02 pages is attached for reference).

2. It is emphasised that to achieve global quality standards in evaluation, design, construction & maintenance of National Highways. National Accreditation Board for Testing and calibration Laboratories (NABL) under the Quality Council of India (QCI) is mandated to implement accreditation system for testing, calibration of laboratories based on national and international standards.

3. In general, the laboratories engaged in evaluation, design, construction and maintenance of National Highways Projects are Consultant's In-house Laboratory, Geo-technical Agency's Laboratory, Contractor's/ Concessionaire's Laboratory at site, Government & Private engineering Colleges laboratories such as IITS/NITs, Laboratories of repute such as CRRI/CBRI/RDSO/IIPM, Manufacturer's in-house Laboratory for

*Bidur Kant Jha*  
22-04-2022

bitumen/Cement/bearing/steel/expansion joints/pre-stressing components and Private Laboratories for Third Party Test.

4. For enhancing quality and standards of testing laboratories, it is desirable that necessary infrastructure and qualified human resources are available and applicable processes are followed diligently. Laboratories must also ensure regular calibration of their equipment from NABL accredited calibration laboratories.

5. Therefore, to begin with it is suggested that all executing agencies involved in NH projects may mandatory insist that all the private laboratories to be used for Third Party Test of NH works must have NABL accreditation.

6. It is requested that this may be brought into the notice of all concern for needful compliance.

Encl: As above

Yours sincerely,

*Bidur Kant Jha*  
22-04-2022

(Bidur Kant Jha)  
Director (New Technology)

Copy to:

1. All CEs in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
2. All ROs of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
3. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
4. Technical circular file of S&R (P&B) Section
5. Technical Director, NIC- with a request to upload on e-office Notice & on Ministry's website under "What's new".

Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary (RT&H)
2. PPS to DG (RD) & SS
3. Sr. PPS/ PPS to Addl. Secretary (Road Safety)/ Addl. Secretary (RT&H & LA)
4. Sr. PPS/ PPS to AS&FA
5. Sr. PPS/ PPS to ADG (SKN) / ADG (RP)/ ADG(DS)
6. Sr. PPS/ PPS to JS (RT&MVL)/ JS (EIC) / JS (Logistics)/ JS (NHIDCL)

अनुराग जैन, भा.प्र.से.  
सचिव  
**ANURAG JAIN, I.A.S.**  
Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते



भारत सरकार  
उद्योग संवर्धन और आंतरिक व्यापार विभाग  
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPT. FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY  
AND INTERNAL TRADE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
D.O. No. P-12013/5/2022-NPC-QCI  
15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

O/o Secretary, MoRTH  
Diary No.....  
Date.....

*Respected Sir,*

Addressing the nation on India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India** emphasised on achieving global quality standards and stated that each of the product sold overseas is not just a product made by a company- it is the identity of our nation and a brand ambassador of India.

2. As we focus on global quality standards, it is imperative that all laboratories, including those operated, supported or recognized by government agencies, obtain accreditation as per international standards to be acceptable to international markets.
3. The Quality Council of India (QCI) was constituted as an autonomous body by a Cabinet resolution in 1996 with an aim to create a quality infrastructure to promote concept of quality in all sectors of the economy. Consequently, accreditation boards for testing and calibration laboratories, certification bodies, education & training and hospital & healthcare have been established. National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) under the QCI is mandated to implement accreditation system for testing, calibration, medical and other laboratories based on national and international standards. Therefore, it is important for all laboratories to obtain NABL accreditation.
4. For upgradation of testing infrastructure in the country, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been requested to assist laboratories. Accordingly, laboratories may be advised to sign MOUs with BIS for operation or upgradation of laboratories.
5. I request you to get a comprehensive review done of all laboratories operating under your sector with a view to ensure that necessary infrastructure and qualified human resources are available and applicable processes are followed diligently. Guidelines placed at Annexure may be strictly followed for enhancing quality and standards of testing laboratories.

*Warm Regards*

*Secy*  
*CE (PL & QC)*

Yours sincerely,

*Anurag Jain*  
(Anurag Jain)

**Shri Aramane Giridhar,**  
Secretary,  
M/o Road Transport & Highways  
Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.

*Discuss  
abt with BK Jha*

Guidelines for improving quality and standards of testing laboratories

1. Laboratories must prepare a comprehensive list of all products/services that can be tested in the sector in which it is operational.
2. Each product/service must be mapped with its corresponding international standards or Indian Standards (IS), if the IS is adopted based on international standard. Relevant test methods and tests specified under these standards must also be identified. Laboratories may ensure that complete set of tests for the products/services is available at their facility. Special focus may be placed by laboratories to ensure that complete set of test and facilities are available for a product/service under regulation/QCO.
3. Laboratories must then identify the equipment, technology and human resource competence required for performing the tests, and equip themselves with such equipment, technology and human resources necessary for performance of the tests.
4. Laboratories must also ensure regular calibration of their equipment from NABL accredited calibration laboratories.
5. Laboratories must pursue end-to-end digitization and automation of all processes to remove manual intervention over a period of time. Sample receipt, status of testing, reporting results and dispatch can be IT enabled to track the progress of each sample.
6. All laboratories, including BIS Labs, must obtain NABL accreditation for all products and their corresponding tests so as to ensure that a customer receives end-to-end solution through a laboratory.
7. A laboratory should not call it 'NABL Accredited' unless all tests performed by it are accredited by NABL.
8. NABL's accreditation process mandates performance of certain test methods as live demonstrations during accreditation assessment. Laboratories must cooperate with NABL assessment team to ensure that such demonstration is performed through which testing competence can be established. They must also make their relevant subject matter experts available for such demonstrations. The same is applicable to subsequent surprise assessments as well by NABL.
9. Laboratories accredited by NABL must integrate themselves over NABL's blockchain portal and upload reports of customers on the same portal.
10. Laboratories must clearly indicate against each test/calibration parameter in the report whether that parameter is accredited by NABL. Laboratories must clearly display the NABL symbol and QR code issued by NABL on every report.
11. Laboratories must seek accreditation solely on the basis of merit. Laboratories shall refrain from attempting to influence the accreditation process, timelines and decisions of NABL.
12. Laboratories must onboard themselves and continually update their information on the Government of India's *Parakh* Portal which aims to be a one-stop repository of information on laboratories and connected services in the country. This will contribute to easier customer acquisition and accessibility through the portal. Suspension or non-accredited status (due to any reason) should also be updated as and when applicable.