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EV Fire Incidents: Manufacturers Might soon Have to Follow BIS Norms for Batteries.

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With the recent rise in fire incidents involving two-wheeler electric vehicles, the Government is formulating BIS standards for EV battery manufacturing.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs plans to lay down EV battery standards through the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The rules shall initially be applicable for two-wheelers and later be applied for four-wheelers as well.

The BIS is the national authority which determines the standards a product needs to be at before it is sold to the consumers. In the case of batteries, Size, connectors, quality of cells and capacity will be the parameter based on which standards will be set.

Experts say that once the standardization is finalized, the Government's battery swapping projects can be initiated in full swing. The draft battery swapping policy given by NITI Aayog has called for the introduction of BIS standards in battery manufacturing.

The Aftermath of multiple escooter fire accidents, which had reached an all-time peak this year, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway asked the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)'s the fire science and engineering arm the Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) to investigate the matter.

The investigation report states that there were multiple defects in batteries, including their designs and battery pack modules, that caused the fire incidents earlier this year. As of now, the major concern is the interoperability issues of battery swapping, which the industry needs to address. Till now, 30 fire-related incidents have taken place brands are Okinawa Autotech, Ola Electric, Pure EV, Jitendra EV and Boom Motors.

Niti Ayog advised for a voluntary recall of such vehicles, after which, Most of the companies recalled 7000 EV Scooters involved in fire incidents.

Ganesh Nair
Legal Researcher
R&D Corpbiz