



QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA (QCI)

2nd floor, J Tower, World Trade Centre, Block F, Nauroji Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave,
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Introduction to the sTar Scheme

Why Join STARS as a Certification Body

The Security sTar Agencies Rating Scheme (STARS) is a joint QCI–CAPSI initiative addressing a large, under-served compliance market — India's private security industry comprises over 22,000 agencies regulated under the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005.

As an approved Certification Body, you gain:

1. **First-mover access** to a structured, seven-level certification ladder (One Star through Seven Star).
2. **A faster route to market** — rather than waiting out the full NABCB accreditation cycle (Office Assessment plus Witness Assessment) before taking on a single client, QCI's Provisional Approval System lets you begin operating under the Scheme immediately, provisionally, while completing formal accreditation in parallel.
3. **A lighter path if you are already accredited** — if your CB already holds NABCB QMS accreditation under Security Services scope sector 35 then extension of scope can be added for this Scheme.
4. **Recurring business** through the certification lifecycle — initial certification, annual surveillance (including mandatory unannounced audits), and three-yearly recertification.
5. **Institutional credibility** through direct association with QCI, India's apex national accreditation facilitation body, and CAPSI, the country's leading private security industry association.
6. **A transparent, pre-defined cost structure** — application fee, per-man day assessment charges, and travel are all fixed upfront, so there is no ambiguity in what approval will cost.

How to Obtain Provisional Approval Requirements

7. Apply to QCI using the prescribed application format, along with the application fee of INR 20,000, and all required supporting documents. The application must be signed by the CB's CEO or an authorized representative.
8. Application scrutiny — QCI's secretariat reviews the application for completeness; only complete applications are processed further.
9. Assessment team nomination — QCI nominates an assessment team (a team leader plus member(s)/technical expert(s)). CVs are shared in advance and objections to any nominees may be raised and will be considered by QCI on merit. All assessors' sign confidentiality and conflict-of-interest undertakings.
10. Office Assessment — typically 3 +1 man-days at the CB's Head Office (including any Technical Expert), covering an opening meeting explaining scope and methodology; review of the documented management system against the assessment criteria; verification of



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implementation, including personnel competence records and interviews; and a closing meeting where nonconformities and concerns are formally communicated.

11. Possible Witness Assessment — QCI may decide, based on the office assessment or otherwise, to witness an actual audit/evaluation conducted by the CB after provisional approval of its first client within a year.
12. Corrective action closure — any nonconformities raised must be resolved.
13. Decision — based on the assessment report(s) and resolution of any nonconformities, QCI decides whether to grant Provisional Approval.
14. **Operate under Provisional Approval for one year**, during which: QCI will witness at least one evaluation (waived if a witness report from NABCB is provided); full NABCB accreditation under ISO 17021-1 must be obtained within this one-year window; and QCI must be informed promptly of any material changes to legal/ownership status, key personnel, policies, resources, premises, or scope.
15. **Ongoing fees** — beyond the application fee, INR 20,000 per man day applies for assessments (plus travel/stay on actuals), and per certificate issued to certified clients as per fee structure.
16. Extension, if needed — if accreditation is not completed within the year, an extension may be requested, subject to QCI's discretion.

Note - Provisional approval can be suspended or withdrawn with 15 days' notice for noncompliance with Scheme requirements — the intent is genuinely to bridge a CB to full accreditation, not to serve as a permanent substitute for it.

