

Access to Factories for Remediation Verification

The Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety (the “Accord”) and the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety (the “Alliance”) are both independent, legally-binding initiatives operating in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh under the National Tripartite Plan of Action (NTPA) to improve worker safety in the ready-made garment (RMG) industry. Under the plan, each organization works on behalf of its member brands to inspect and verify compliance with a common standard for structural, electrical, and fire safety.

The Alliance and the Accord work closely together to ensure consistent application and interpretation of safety requirements to factories supplying their members. This is especially true of factories from which members of both initiatives source production.

Although the Accord and the Alliance have agreed to recognize one another’s inspection reports, we also recognize each organization has independent and complementary obligations to their member companies to verify compliance. Whenever possible, such verifications will be conducted jointly by teams consisting of representatives from both initiatives.

However, this is not always feasible. As such, the initiatives require suppliers to afford inspectors and engineers from each initiative equal and open access for the purpose of conducting remediation verification visits with appropriate prior notice. Failure to admit inspectors or engineers for this purpose may result in action by either initiative to suspend approval or escalate compliance action.

The Alliance and the Accord take the safety and health of RMG workers very seriously. We also understand the need to work with employers and government agencies to minimize inconvenience and inconsistency in the application of safety requirements. Nevertheless, the verification of remediation progress is an important element of our efforts to improve safety, and must not be compromised by refusal to grant access upon reasonable notice.



Brad Loewen
Chief Safety Inspector
Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety



Mark Chubb
Chief Safety Officer
Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety

