



on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

21 May 2016

**Subject:** Termination of Smart Group RMG factories under Article 21 of the Accord.

The Accord is a legal agreement between international garment brands and unions that represent workers. The purpose of the Accord is to protect the safety of garment workers by inspecting factory buildings, identifying risks to worker safety, and making sure that factory owners eliminate these risks by renovating and repairing the buildings.

The Accord recently took a decision under Article 21 related to an Accord listed supplier which admittedly falsified concrete strength test results. The test results were needed to determine what structural retrofitting of the inspected factory buildings was necessary.

As a result of the egregious fraud committed, the brands that have signed the Accord will no longer do business with Smart Group and will no longer place any orders at their RMG factories. The Accord wants to make sure that all workers at Smart Group RMG factories are aware of this situation.

The names of the factories affected by this decision are listed below:

<p><b>R.B. Industries Limited,</b> Ruby Gate, Nasirabad Industrial Area, East Nasirabad, Bayezid Bostami Road, Chittagong</p> <p><b>Shehan Specialized Textile Mills Ltd.,</b> Road #5, Plot #11-12, Sector #1/A, CEPZ, Chittagong</p> <p><b>Smart Jackets (BD) Ltd.,</b> Road #5, Plot # 13, Sector # 1/A, CEPZ, Chittagong</p> <p><b>Smart Jeans,</b> 9/10 FIDC Road, Kalurghat Heavy Industrial Estate, Kalurghat, Chittagong</p>
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The Accord has informed the MoLE Inspector General that these factories are no longer covered by the Accord. The Accord has provided all current information related to the safety inspections and status of remediation at these factories to the Inspector General.

If workers choose not to work at the above listed factories because of the above described situation or if the affected factories close, the brands that have signed the Accord will make an effort to help workers find jobs at nearby factories that are safe. There is no guarantee that a job will be available, but the brands will try to assist.

For information, workers can contact:

The Accord:

- Mr. Rob Wayss, Mobile No. 01755-583744
- Mr. Brad Loewen, Mobile No. 01781-900956

The Industrial Bangladesh Council:

- Mr. Roy Ramesh Chandra, Mobile No. 01819-223014
- Mr. Amirul Haque Amin, Mobile No. 01731-201302
- Mr. Babul Akhter, Mobile No. 01819-198205.

Also, the government of Bangladesh has established a helpline for RMG workers at: 0800-4455000. There is no charge for calling this number.

#### STICHTING BANGLADESH ACCORD FOUNDATION

The Accord on Building and Fire Safety in Bangladesh

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