

# ACCORD

on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

*Stichting Bangladesh Accord Foundation  
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Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh*

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17 August 2016

Subject: Termination of Kems Group 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 has conducted an inspection of Kems Fashions Ltd. on 19 October 2015 and found a number of problems that could cause serious harm to workers. The Accord has asked Kems Fashions Ltd. to make changes to eliminate these risks. Unfortunately, Kems Fashions Ltd. has failed to:

- Remove locking features or rendered inoperable from the egress doors/gates. This could result in workers be locked in the factory during a fire or another emergency.
- Remove collapsible gates/sliding door/rolling shutters. This could be an obstacle for workers during evacuation in case of fire incident or another emergency.
- Install fire doors. This could result in workers becoming stuck on the higher floors of the building if there is a fire.
- Install a good fire alarm system. This could result in workers not being warned that there is a fire.
- Install a fire sprinkler system. This could result in not discharging water when there is a fire incident.
- Remove combustible materials from storage. This could result fire incident.
- Reduce occupant load. This could result in workers be stuck during emergency exit.
- Complete fire separation in the relevant areas. This could result in workers becoming stuck on the higher floors of the building if there is a fire.
- Submit a detailed analysis of the structural safety of the building and fix any problems with the building structure. This could result in the failure of the structure and injuries to workers.
- Safely install and maintain electrical equipment and fix up electrical wiring. This could create serious electrical hazard at any moment in the factory which might lead to fire incidents.

The Accord has made many efforts to get the owners of Kems Fashions Ltd. to fix these safety hazards, so that workers will be safe, but the owners have refused to do so.

As a result, Kems Fashions Ltd. is unsafe for workers. Because of this, the brands that have signed the Accord will no longer do business with Kems Fashions Ltd. and will no longer place any orders at their RMG factories. The Accord wants to make sure that all workers at Kems Fashions Ltd. are aware that the building is not safe.

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

**Kems Fashions Ltd.**

Address: 376 South Manda, Sabujbag, Dhaka

**Kashfi Knit Ltd.**

Address: Chaydana Hazir Pukur, National university, Gazipur

**K.S Fashion Ltd. (Non Accord)**

**Kame & Komol Fashion Wear's Ltd. (Non Accord)**

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. Kutubuddin Ahmed, Mobile No. 01711-047688

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 Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh