



on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

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## **SAFETY NOTIFICATION TO WORKERS IN MAHID APPAREL LTD.**

(Address: Nowpara, Madhabdi, Narsingdi, Dhaka-1604)

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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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 inspected Mahid Apparel Ltd. for fire, electrical and structural safety in the period 20<sup>th</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and found a number of problems that could cause serious harm to workers. The Accord has asked Mahid Apparel Ltd. to make changes to eliminate these risks. Unfortunately, Mahid Apparel Ltd. has failed to:

- Remove the storage blocking the egress doors/gates. This could be an obstacle for workers during evacuation in case of fire incident or another emergency.
- Complete the installation of fire doors. This could result in workers becoming stuck on the higher floors of the building if there is a fire.
- Install a fire alarm system. This could result in workers not being warned that there is a fire.
- 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.
- Install a fire sprinkler system. This could result in not discharging water when there is a fire incident.
- Safely install and maintain electrical equipment and fix up electrical wiring. This could create serious electrical hazards in the factory which might lead to fire incidents.
- Submit a detailed analysis of the structural safety of the building and fix the problems with the building structure. This could result in the failure of the structure and injuries to workers.

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

As a result, Mahid Apparel Ltd. is unsafe for workers. Because of this, the brands that have signed the Accord will no longer do business with Mahid Apparel Ltd. and will no longer

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place any orders at the factory. The Accord wants to make sure that all workers at Mahid Apparel Ltd. are aware that the building is not safe.

If workers choose not to work at Mahid Apparel Ltd. or if the factory closes, 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. Kawsar Akil, Mobile No. 01766-695909

The Industrial Bangladesh Council:

- Mr. Roy Ramesh Chandra, Mobile No. 01819-223014
- Mr. Amirul Haque Amin, Mobile No. 01731-201302
- Mr. Towhidur Rahman, Mobile No. 01819-987559

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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