



on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

## **SAFETY NOTIFICATION TO WORKERS IN UNISON DESIGN LIMITED**

(Address: Plot#B-365,366,367,BSCIC Industrial Estate shasongaon, Fatullah, Narayanganj)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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 Unison Design Ltd. for fire, electrical and structural safety in the period 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and found a number of problems that could cause serious harm to workers. The Accord has asked Unison Design Ltd. to make changes to eliminate these risks. Unfortunately, Unison Design Ltd. has failed to:

- Remove locking features or render them inoperable from the egress doors/gates. This could result in workers being locked in the factory during a fire 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.
- Complete the installation of 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.
- Fix up the electrical wiring. This could create serious electrical hazards in the factory which might lead to fire incidents.
- 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 Unison Design Ltd. to fix these safety hazards, so that workers will be safe, but the owners have refused to do so.

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

If workers choose not to work at Unison Design Ltd. because of these safety risks, or if Unison Design Ltd., the brands that have signed the Accord will make an effort to help

**STICHTING  
BANGLADESH  
ACCORD  
FOUNDATION**

Level 13, AJ Heights  
Cha 72/1/d, Pragati Sarani  
North Badda, Dhaka - 1212  
Bangladesh

Tel +88 02 9852093-6  
Tel +88 01766695900

Keizersgracht 62-64  
1015 CS Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Tel +31 (0)20 5207431

contact@bangladeshaccord.com  
www.bangladeshaccord.org



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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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