



on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

SAFETY NOTIFICATION TO WORKERS IN ASSERSION DESIGN

Address: Hazi Sabder Ali Complex, Mirer Bazar, Pubail, Gazipur

Date: 28 May 2016

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 Assersion Design on 26th June, 2014 and found a number of problems that could cause serious harm to workers. The Accord has asked Assersion Design to make changes to eliminate these risks. Unfortunately, Assersion Design 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.
- 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.

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

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

If workers choose not to work at Assersion Design because of these safety risks, or if Assersion Design 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. Brad Loewen, Mobile No. 01781-900956

The Industriall Bangladesh Council:

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

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- 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

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