

SAFETY NOTIFICATION TO WORKERS IN ORNATE INTERNATIONAL LTD/ (LIM) (Address : Asha Plaza, 4th Floor, Hemayetpur Bus Stand, Savar, Dhaka)

Date: 24 August 2017

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 three inspections of Ornate International Ltd/ (Lim) in the period 8 June – 1 July 2014 and found a number of problems that could cause serious harm to workers. The Accord has asked Ornate International Ltd/ (Lim) to make changes to eliminate these risks. Unfortunately, Ornate International Ltd/ (Lim) 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.
- Remove collapsible gates/sliding doors/rolling shutters. 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.

The Accord has made many efforts to get the owners of Ornate International Ltd/ (Lim) to fix these safety hazards, so that workers will be safe, but the owners have refused to do so.

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

If workers choose not to work at Ornate International Ltd/ (Lim) because of these safety risks, or if Ornate International Ltd/ (Lim) 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

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ACCORD

on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

- 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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