

**Termination of Accord Companies' Business with Freedom Knitwear Ltd.**

13 March 2018

**Statement on the termination of Accord signatory companies' business relations with Freedom Knitwear Ltd., Plot # B-504, Sasongaon, Narayanganj, Dhaka, Bangladesh, due to the supplier's failure to implement workplace safety measures.**

The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh is conducting independent, engineering inspections for fire, electrical, and building structural safety at all factories in Bangladesh producing for Accord signatory companies. The Accord oversees the development of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) by factories and Accord signatories and monitors remediation through follow-up verification visits. The Accord supports factories in the remediation by providing technical advice and developing resources and guidance.<sup>1</sup> The Accord signatory companies also support factories in the remediation as per their obligations under the Accord agreement.

Where corrective actions to eliminate safety hazards are identified, the factory is required to implement these corrective actions according to a schedule that is mandatory and time-bound. If a supplier fails to implement the Accord's corrective actions and cooperate fully in the Accord's inspection and related programs, the supplier will receive notice and warning that its business with Accord signatory companies will be terminated if non-compliance persists. If the notice and warning process does not lead to sufficient progress, business with the supplier will be terminated by the Accord signatory companies.

**FREEDOM KNITWEAR LTD.**

Freedom Knitwear Ltd. was inspected for fire, electrical and structural safety by the Accord in 2014. After many attempts by the Accord staff the factory failed to make adequate progress in CAP implementation.

The refusal of Freedom Knitwear Ltd. to cooperate prompted the implementation of a notice and warning process in accordance with Article 21 of the Accord. Despite this notice and warning process and numerous efforts by the Accord staff and Accord signatories, the factory owner continued to fail to cooperate. The Accord signatory companies using this factory, as of 11 February 2018 are therefore required to terminate their business relationship with this supplier and all factories under the same ownership.

The supplier is no longer eligible for Accord company production until it meets the conditions for requalification.

The Accord will work with its labour and company signatories in an effort to ensure that any affected workers are offered employment with safe suppliers.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bangladeshaccord.org/factories/resource-centre/>