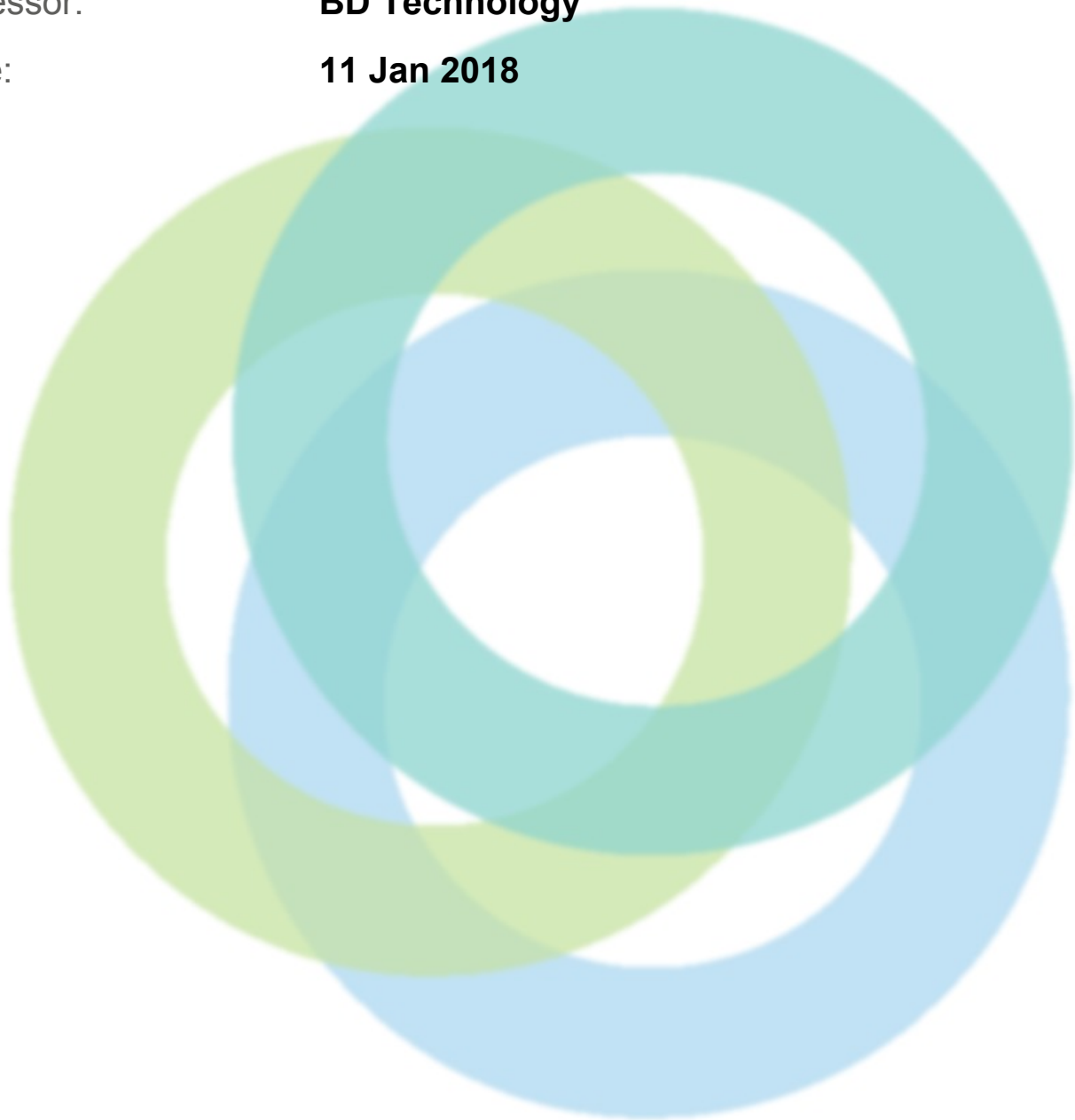


INITIAL FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT (FAR)

Factory Name: **Valmont Sweaters Ltd**
Address: **505, Yaid Ali Complex, North Khailkur, National University, Gazipur Gazipur Bangladesh**
Assessor: **BD Technology**
Date: **11 Jan 2018**



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Address: **505, Yaid Ali Complex, North Khaikur, National University, Gazipur
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ALLIANCE
FOR BANGLADESH WORKER SAFETY

Introduction to the Report

The following report contains a site profile and summary of non-conformities identified during an onsite assessment commissioned by the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety (Alliance) and conducted by a third-party Qualified Assessment Firm (QAF). The assessment was conducted against the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety Assessment Protocols (APs) and Fire Safety and Structural Integrity Standard, which is harmonized with the factory assessment guidelines developed by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for the Bangladesh National Tripartite Plan of Action (NTPA). The goal of the Alliance process is to provide clear and practical technical requirements by which Bangladeshi Ready Made Garment (RMG) Factories producing for Alliance members may be consistently and fairly evaluated for fire, structural, and electrical safety in a non-duplicative manner. Each assessment will prompt action plans that will be used by RMG factories to systematically and sustainably improve safety conditions for garment workers. Beyond tracking and reporting on action steps taken in a transparent manner, the Alliance organization and its members will seek to further support factory improvements through technical assistance, training, implementation support for functional Worker Committees, and in some cases financial assistance and wage support for workers if factories are closed for remediation.

The contents of the report do not constitute a guarantee of compliance with the applicable laws, the Alliance Standard or the absolute or continued safety against fire, electrical and/or structural integrity issues that may lead to injury or loss of life. The report is designed to provide a non-exhaustive summary of risk issues, based on a limited sampling and duration of time onsite by the named QAF. Neither the QAF nor the Alliance can certify or guarantee the quality, outcome, or effectiveness of actions taken in response to the report.

For more information and report feedback please go to: www.bangladeshworkersafety.org.



GENERAL INFORMATION

General Information

Factory Name:	Valmont Sweaters Ltd
Address:	505, Yaid Ali Complex, North Khaikur, National University, Gazipur Gazipur Bangladesh
Country:	Bangladesh
Province:	
City:	Gazipur
Zip Code:	
Audit Duration:	1 Days
Re-Audit:	Re-Audit After 0 Months
Draft Report Date:	16/01/2018
Final Report Date:	17/01/2018
Are all Action Items From Previous Assessment Completed?:	N/A
Buildings in Complex:	There are 2 buildings at this factory: Main Production Building and Utility Building.
Is the building(s) owned or rented by the Factory:	Rented
Number of Building Levels (Stories):	Main Production Building: 6 stories; Utility Building: 1 story.
Approximate Building Area (SF):	Main Production building: 14,000 sq ft X 6 = 84,000 sq ft; Utility Building: 1,000 sq ft; Total Area: 85,000 sq ft.
Date of Building Construction:	2009-2013
Date of Last Building Renovation/Addition:	N/A
Ancillary Structures in Complex:	One ancillary structure used as Utility building.
Approximate Ancillary Structures Area (SF):	1,000 sq ft
Number of Occupants:	Main Production Building: 660 (GF: 45; 1st: 132; 2nd: 201; 3rd: 169; 4th: 91; 5th: 22); Utility Building: 2

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ALLIANCE
FOR BANGLADESH WORKER SAFETY

Number of Ancillary Levels (Stories):	One story.
Occupancy Type:	Industrial G2
Construction Type:	Main Production Building: RCC structure; Utility Building: Brick wall with RCC slab (half portion) and half portion roof metal.
Height of Highest Occupied Floor Level Above Grade:	Height of highest occupied floor level: 53 ft.



ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Fire Protection Construction

Question:	Is each floor separated with a fire-resistive rated construction barrier?	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Penetration found in the floor due to electrical cable from ground floor to 5th floor.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Floors were not separated due to electrical cable.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide fire-resistive rated construction barriers between floors. Consult a qualified fire protection engineer to design the rated construction barriers. (Barriers rating should be equal to construction type rating.)	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.5 Separation	
Question:	Are exit enclosures provided with fire-resistive rated construction barriers?	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	The exit enclosures (Ground Floor to top Floor) are not protected with fire-resistive rated construction barriers.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide minimum 2-hr fire resistance rated construction barriers and 90-min fire rated door to separate the lift core. Consult with a qualified fire protection engineer if required.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	22 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.5 Separation	



Question:	Are separations between hazards provided with fire-resistive rated construction barriers.
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	In Utility building boiler room was not separated from generator room with fire rated construction. In main production building at 5th floor canteen was not separated from storage area with fire-resistive rated construction barriers.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Boiler room was not separated from Generator room. Canteen was not separated from storage area., Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide fire-resistive rated construction barriers between hazard types. Provide 1-hr rated construction barrier and 45-min rated opening protection for boiler room. Consult a qualified fire protection engineer to design the required rated construction barrier.
Suggested Deadline Date:	22 Mar 2018
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.5 Separation
Question:	Certificates of Occupancy for each building have been issued and are on file.
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	Occupancy Certificates for the buildings were not provided.
Source of Findings:	Document Review: According to the document review of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Apply to appropriate authority in an expeditious manner for issuance of the Certificates of Occupancy for each building and ancillary structure according to building use.
Suggested Deadline Date:	20 Mar 2018
Standard:	Are certificates of occupancy provided for each building or ancillary structure?
Fire Protection Systems	
Question:	Does the building have a Standpipe System?
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	A standpipe system was not installed in the factory.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.






Suggested Plan of Action:	Prepare shop drawings and hydraulic calculations (as outlined in NFPA 14) for the system being installed and submit to the Alliance for review. Should the standpipe system being installed be found to not be in compliance with the design requirements of NFPA 14, correct the system installation, as needed, for compliance. Prepare revised drawings and calculations for review by the Alliance prior to any modification or installation.
Suggested Deadline Date:	29 Mar 2018
Standard:	Does the building have a standpipe system installed where required. Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.4.2
Question:	Does the building have a fire pump?
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	A fire pump was not installed in the factory.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install a fire pump system according to NFPA 20 with a minimum pressure of 450 kPa (65 psi) at the hydraulically most remote hose connection. Also install water tanks according to NFPA 22 and underground water mains according to NFPA 24.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 5 Fire Protection Systems
Question:	Are notification and initiation devices for the fire alarm system installed at required locations based on occupancy type?
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	Fire alarm notification and initiation devices were not provided in the factory.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide pull stations at each egress points, smoke detectors in air handling equipment, visual and audible devices spaced appropriately based on occupancy type. Reference NFPA 72
Suggested Deadline Date:	29 Mar 2018
Standard:	Pull stations at egress points, smoke detectors in air handling equipment, visual and audible devices spaced appropriately based on occupancy type. Reference NFPA 72
Question:	Are fire department connections provided and clearly identified for the Fire





	Protection Systems?	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Fire department connections were not installed in the factory.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide Fire Department (Siamese) connections and proper signage in accordance with Alliance Standard Section 5.5.4. Connections shall match the Fire Service and Civil Defence hose thread standard.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.5.4 Fire Department Connections	
Question:	Is the fire alarm and detection system monitored by a central station monitoring service or directly connected to the Fire Service and Civil Defense?	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	An addressable fire alarm and detection system was not provided in the factory.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install a new fire alarm and detection system. Once installed, arrange for direct connection of the system to a central station monitoring service or the Fire Service and Civil Defence per Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.7.5 Monitoring. Until that time that a central station monitoring service or direct connection to the Fire Service and Civil Defence can be set up, a person trained to contact the Fire Service and Civil Defence in the event of fire alarm activation shall be provided. An annunciator shall be located in a constantly attended location (such as a fire control room) to alert this person.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	29 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.7.5 Monitoring	
Means of Egress		
Question:	Doors are not locked in the direction of egress under any conditions. All hasps, locks, slide bolts, and other locking devices have been removed where required.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	



Description:	There were collapsible doors with locking arrangements in 2 exits of all floors of Main Production Building. On the Ground Floor, a roller shutter was found with improper locking arrangements.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Collapsible gates with locking features., Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all hasps, locks, slide bolts, or other locking devices at the noted locations. Doors may be locked where the latch and lock are disengaged with one motion where the occupant load does not exceed 49 persons. Turning a door handle and disengaging a lock is considered two motions. Doors may be provided with locking hardware from the ingress side provided that a panic bar is installed on any door with an occupant load exceeding 49 persons.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates	
Question:	Doors along the path of egress have a minimum width of 0.8 m (32 in) and have required ratings.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Door widths are more than 0.8 m, but there are collapsible doors with locking arrangements at 2 stairs egress location from ground floor to 5th floor of the six story Main Production Building.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide 90-min fire protective opening assemblies in 2-hr rated exit enclosures. Exits connecting four or more stories shall be enclosed with a minimum 2 hour fire-resistance rating.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.5.6 Minimum Widths. Increased occupant loads will require a door width greater than 0.8 m.	
Question:	All doors in a means of egress are of the side-hinged swinging type.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	There are collapsible doors which are not side-hinged, swinging-type doors at all exits from Ground to 5th Floor.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide side-hinged swinging type doors in all means of egress per Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8.	



Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates	
Question:	Emergency power for exit signs is tested at least once per year. If battery operated, these lights are tested on a monthly basis. Functional testing of battery powered signs is provided for a minimum 90 min once per year.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	No plan or record of conducting periodic tests for the emergency battery backup for illumination of the exit signs was found.	
Source of Findings:	Document Review: According to the document review of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Develop a testing and maintenance program that ensures the emergency power for exit signs is tested at least once per year. If battery operated signs are used, these lights are tested on a monthly basis. Functional testing of battery powered signs is provided for a minimum 90 min once per year.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 10 Section 10.12 Illumination of Exit Signs and Means Of Escape.	
Question:	All occupied roofs are provided with parapets or guards with a minimum height of 1067 mm (42 in.).	 
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Parapet height was measured at 36 inches.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provided parapets or guards with a minimum height of 1067 mm (42 in.) at all occupied roofs per Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 12.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 12 Handrails and Guards	
Question:	Occupant loads are posted for every assembly and production floor in a conspicuous space near the main point of egress.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Occupant load signage was found at every production floor in a conspicuous	



	space near the main point of egress; however, no signage was provided at the assembly point.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Post the occupant load for every assembly and production floor in a facility in a conspicuous space near the main exit or exit access doorway for the space per Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.4.4.
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.4.4 Posting of Occupant Load
Question:	Emergency power for means of egress illumination is verified at least once per year. If battery operated lights are used, these lights are tested on a monthly basis. Functional testing of battery powered lights is provided for a minimum 90 min once per year.
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	Records of verifying emergency power for the means of egress illumination were not found as required.
Source of Findings:	Document Review: According to the document review of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Develop a testing and maintenance program that ensures the operation of all means of egress emergency lighting is verified at least once per year. If battery-operated lights are used, these lights shall be tested on a monthly basis. Functional testing of battery powered lights shall be provided for a minimum of 90 minutes, once per year.
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 10 Section 10.12 Illumination of Exit Signs and Means Of Escape Lighting
Question:	Handrails are provided on both sides of each stairway. Intermediate handrails are provided when the stair width exceeds 2.2 m (87 in.). Handrails are not mounted lower than 760 mm (30 in.) or higher than 1100 mm (44 in.).
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	In Stair 2 from 5th floor to Roof, handrails were not provided on both sides of the stairs.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Handrails not observed during visual assessment.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provided handrails on both sides of each stairway. Intermediate handrails shall be provided when the stair width exceeds 2.2 m (87 in.). Mount handrails height in between 30 in. to 44 in as per Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.9



	Stairs and 6.12 Handrails and Guards.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.9 Stairs and 6.12 Handrails and Guards	
Fire Safety Programs		
Question:	An emergency evacuation plan has been developed and communicated to all employees.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Emergency evacuation plan was found but it was not updated per existing systems.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Develop an emergency evacuation plan which includes all components required by the Alliance Standards and communicate the plan to all employees as per Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.1.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.1 Fire Safety Director	
Question:	Emergency egress maps are posted at the entrance to each exit stair or main point of egress.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Emergency egress maps were found were mismatched with existing systems.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Post emergency egress maps at the entrance to each exit stair or main point of egress per Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.4 Evacuation Plan.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.4 Evacuation Plan	
Question:	Fire Drills are conducted at required intervals based on building use type.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	No documents were provided for review detailing fire drills in the factory.	



Source of Findings:	Document Review: According to the document review of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Conduct fire drills on a quarterly basis and provide proper documentation for Alliance review.
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.3 Fire Drills
Question:	Training programs are implemented and documented in accordance with the Alliance Safety Training Curriculum.
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	Documents regarding training programs were not provided for review during the assessment.
Source of Findings:	Document Review: According to the document review of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Arrange sufficient training programs for fire fighting, first aid, and rescue training and make proper documentations and keep evidence for Alliance review as per Alliance Standards Part 13. Train a sufficient number (18 %) of workers for fire fighting and emergency purposes.
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13
Question:	A Fire Safety Director position has been filled.
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	Factory has no fire safety director.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Create a Fire Safety Director position and fill the position with an individual that has had sufficient training to be able to perform the required duties.
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.1 Fire Safety Director
Question:	A written housekeeping policy is established and enforced.
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	3



Description:	A housekeeping policy was not provided for review during the assessment.
Source of Findings:	Document Review: According to the document review of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Establish written corporate and plant policies on housekeeping to ensure scheduled cleaning for floor, wall, ceiling, supply and return air ventilation systems. Promptly reschedule skipped cleanings. Provide a documented line of authority for authorizing a cleaning delay and rescheduling. As a general rule the maximum tolerable deposit thickness for loose fluffy lint is 13 mm (½ in.) over a maximum of 46.5 m ² (500 ft ²). Limit dense deposits to 6 mm (¼ in.) and oil saturated deposits to 3.2 mm (⅛ in.).
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.6 Housekeeping
Question:	Fire Department pre-planning has been completed.
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	Fire Department pre-planning documentation was not provided for review during the assessment.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: According to the visual assessment of the factory.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Complete fire department pre-planning activities with the local Fire Service and Civil Defence.
Suggested Deadline Date:	21 Mar 2018
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.1 Fire Safety Director