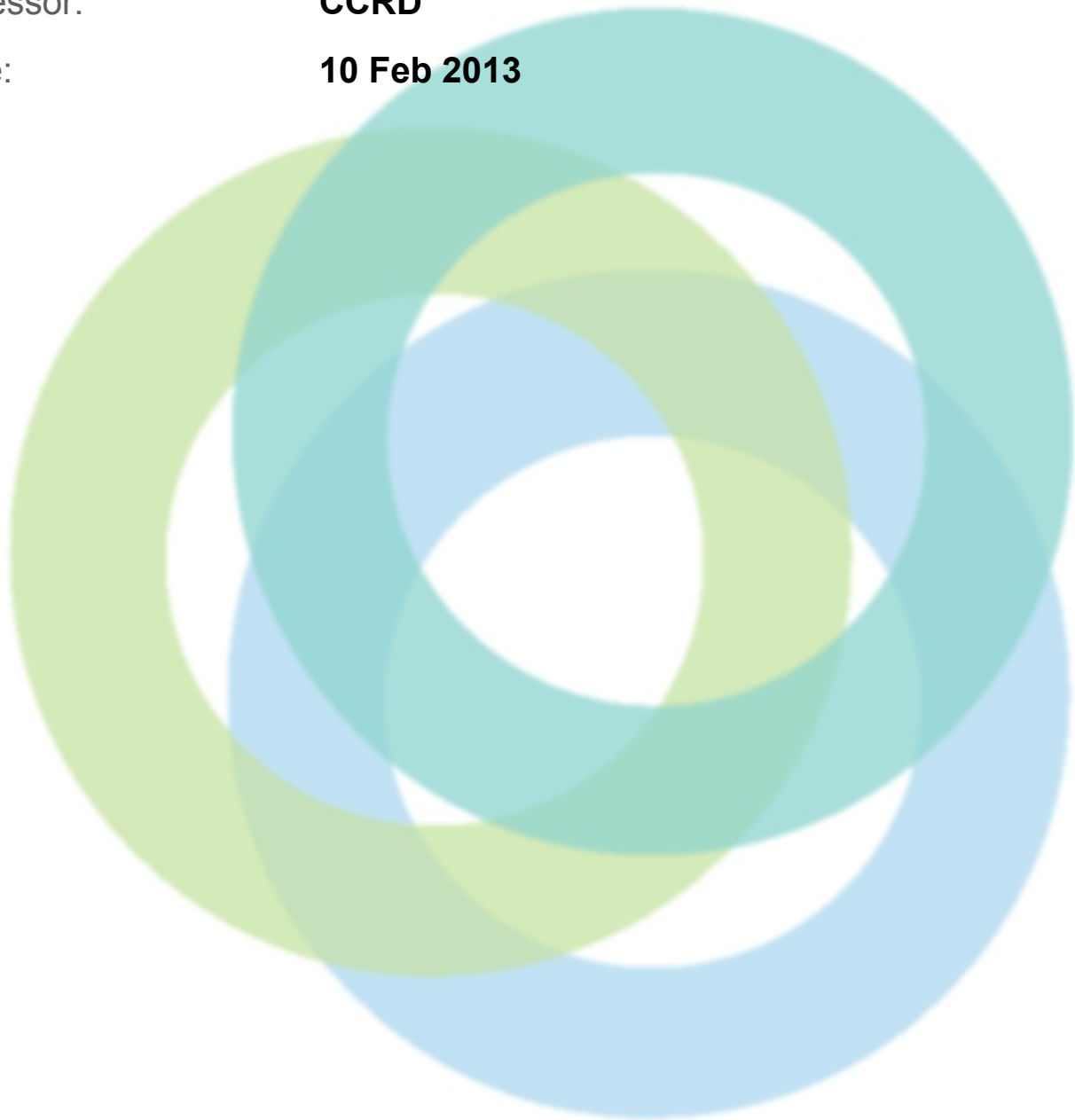


# INITIAL FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT (FAR)

Factory Name: **Sparrow Apparels Ltd**  
Address: **Plot No. 251, Chandona, Dhaka Dhaka Dhaka  
Bangladesh**  
Assessor: **CCRD**  
Date: **10 Feb 2013**





## 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](http://www.bangladeshworkersafety.org).



Factory Name: Sparrow Apparels Ltd

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**ALLIANCE**  
FOR BANGLADESH WORKER SAFETY

## GENERAL INFORMATION

General Information	
Factory Name:	Sparrow Apparels Ltd
Address:	Plot No. 251, Chandona, Dhaka Dhaka Dhaka Bangladesh
Country:	Bangladesh
Province:	Dhaka
City:	Dhaka
Zip Code:	1700
Audit Duration:	
Re-Audit:	Re-Audit After 0 Months
Draft Report Date:	June 27, 2014
Final Report Date:	June 30, 2014
Are all Action Items From Previous Assessment Completed?:	N/A
Buildings in Complex:	1 Factory
Is the building(s) owned or rented by the Factory:	Owned
Number of Building Levels (Stories):	6
Approximate Building Area (SF):	unknown
Date of Building Construction:	1996
Date of Last Building Renovation/Addition:	2001
Ancillary Structures in Complex:	chemical storage, power generation, and general storage
Approximate Ancillary Structures Area (SF):	unknown
Number of Occupants:	950

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Number of Ancillary Levels (Stories):	1
Occupancy Type:	Sewing Factory
Construction Type:	Reinforced concrete and unprotected steel
Height of Highest Occupied Floor Level Above Grade:	60 ft



## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

### Fire Protection Construction

Question:	Are openings and penetrations through rated walls and/or assemblies protected?	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Wall penetrations are not protected with firestop systems.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Unprotected penetrations	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install listed firestop systems at every penetration through fire rated walls and assemblies.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Includes doors, windows, ducts, piping, etc. Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.6 Opening Protectives and Section 4.7 Penetrations	
Question:	Is each floor separated with a fire-resistive rated construction barrier?	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Floor penetrations are not protected with firestop systems.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Unprotected penetrations	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install listed firestop systems at every penetration through floors.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
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:	Exit stairs in the factory building are open to all levels, with no fire rated separation.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Unenclosed stairs	



Suggested Plan of Action:	Protect all egress stairs with a shaft enclosure including 2-hour fire-rated construction. Install fire rated doors.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.5 Separation
Question:	Are shafts provided with the minimum fire-resistance rating?
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	There is a freight elevator located adjacent to the north exit stair. The elevator serves all levels of the main building. The elevator shaft opening has a sliding gate between the elevator shaft and the floor at each level. The lack of elevator shaft enclosure creates an unprotected vertical opening for the full height of the building.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Unprotected vertical opening for freight elevator.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Replace the sliding gates on the Cargo Lift with 90 minute fire rated elevator doors at each level.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.5.7.1 through 4.5.7.3
Question:	Are separations between hazards provided with fire-resistive rated construction barriers.
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	Storage areas and hazardous areas are open to rest of building.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Storage area not separated from rest of factory
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide fire-resistive rated construction barriers between hazard types in accordance with Alliance Standard Sections 3.4.2 and 4.5. Consult a qualified fire protection engineer to design the required rated construction barrier.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.5 Separation





Question:	Fire dampers installed on air-conditioning and ventilation ducts appear to be in good condition and operational.
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	There are duct penetrations and transfer openings at the exit stairs.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: (1) Duct penetration, (2) Open duct penetration
Suggested Plan of Action:	Reroute the ducts so that they do not penetrate the stair enclosure.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 4 Section 4.6 Opening Protectives and Section 4.7 Penetrations





**Fire Protection Systems**

Question:	Is the building protected by an automatic sprinkler system?
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	The facility was in the process of installing an automatic sprinkler system for the warehouse and storage areas.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Sprinklers being installed
Suggested Plan of Action:	Submit plans for the automatic protection systems to the Alliance for review.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 3 Section 3.5.3 Existing Buildings, Part 5 Section 5.3 Automatic Sprinkler Systems and Section 6.13 Travel Distance



Question:	Does the building have a fire pump?
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	No fire pump was installed. Pump was in the process of being installed.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No fire pump
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install a listed, approved fire pump to supply the demand of sprinkler and standpipe system, per NFPA 20. Submit plans for the automatic protection systems to the Alliance for review.



Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 5 Fire Protection Systems	
Question:	Does the building have a Standpipe System?	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Hose stations were installed on each floor for use by building occupants.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Small hose station	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install a Class I standpipe system at required locations. Standpipe system must comply with NFPA 14. Submit plans for the automatic protection systems to the Alliance for review.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Does the building have a standpipe system installed where required. Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.4.2	
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:	2	
Description:	The facility is in the process of installing a new fire detection and alarm system.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: New fire alarm system	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install fire alarm system per NFPA 72. Include pull stations at all entrances to exit stairs, and at ground floor exits. Install strobes and horns for complete coverage on all floors. Install smoke detectors that are part of the fire alarm system in locations required by Alliance standards.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
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:	All storage is maintained with a 460 mm (18 in.) minimum clearance from the top of storage to the sprinkler deflector.
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	Storage in the racks is piled up close to the sprinklers and above the plane of the sprinkler deflector.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Storage up to sprinklers
Suggested Plan of Action:	Lower and maintain storage so that a minimum 18 in. clearance is provided from the top of the storage array to the plane of the sprinkler deflector.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Reference Alliance Standards Part 5 Section 5.3.6.1 Storage Clearance



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:	No central reporting system was installed.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: factory visit
Suggested Plan of Action:	Arrange for direct connection of the fire alarm and detection system to a central station monitoring service or the Fire Service and Civil Defense. Assign a person to contact the fire department in the event of fire alarm activation until this connection is set up. Locate an annunciator to alert this person in a constantly attended location (such as a fire control room).
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.7.5 Monitoring

### Means of Egress


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:	All doors were unrated. Doors were in the process of being installed.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Unrated doors
Suggested Plan of	Remove all existing gates and doors. Install fire doors at the stairs that and are




Action:	listed, approved, swinging, automatic-closing, in compatible fire rated frames with latching panic hardware.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
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 manually operated sliding gates between the production floor and the stair opening at each stair landing.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Sliding gates
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all existing doors and gates at the stairs and exits. Install side-hinged doors with approved hardware that swing in the direction of egress.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates
Question:	Means of egress are free from impediments, obstructions, and stored materials.
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	During the building walkthrough, trash was observed in or adjacent to the exit stairs. Additionally, the discharge for Stair 2 (East Exit Stair) has electrical switchgear located under the stair.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Trash cart in the stair landing.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all impediments, obstructions, and stored materials from the means of egress. Keep all elements of the means of egress (exit path, aisles, stairs, corridors, etc.) continuously free and clear of all obstructions. Remove electrical equipment, other sources of combustion, and all other foreign equipment from the stairwells.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.3.8 Impediments to means of egress and Section 6.3.9 Reliability
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:	2	
Description:	There are manually operated sliding gates between the production floor and the stair opening at each stair landing. These gates are kept in the open position during working hours. After work hours the gates are closed and locked.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No re-entry provided	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all existing gates and doors from the stairs and exits including all locking devices. Install approved fire doors with compliant panic hardware that cannot be locked in the direction of egress under any conditions.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates	
Question:	Stairwells are not utilized as storage spaces.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	1	
Description:	During the building walkthrough, trash was observed in or adjacent to the exit stairs. Additionally, the discharge for Stair 2 (East Exit Stair) has electrical switchgear located under the stair.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Trash in stair	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Permanently remove all storage, trash, foreign material and foreign equipment out of the stairs. Implement a housekeeping program to keep the stairs and egress paths free of storage and impediments.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 13 Section 13.9 Safety Inspections	
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:	3	
Description:	No occupant load signs are posted.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No signage provided	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Post the occupant load for all assembly and production floor areas in a conspicuous space near the main exit or exit access doorway for the space.	
Suggested Deadline	31 Dec 2014	



Date:		
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.4.4 Posting of Occupant Load	
Question:	Every door in a stair enclosure serving more than 5 stories is provided with re-entry unless it meets the requirements of Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8.3.1.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Fire doors with latching panic hardware were not installed.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Re-entry not provided	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install approved fire doors with latching panic hardware. Provide re-entry to floor levels from the stairwells according to the standard.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates	
Question:	Illuminated exit signs are placed at entrances to exits and along the path of egress anywhere the continuation of egress is not obvious or there is a change in the direction of the path of travel.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Lighted exit signs were installed only at the exits.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: factory visit	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide continuously illuminated exit signs. Signs shall be placed at all required exits and along egress paths, especially where there is a change in direction for the path of travel.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.11 Exit Signs	
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:	Handrails were installed on one side of the stairs.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: factory visit	



Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide handrails on both sides of each stairway. Mount handrails at a height between 30 in. and 44 in.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.9 Stairs and 6.12 Handrails and Guards
Question:	All paths of egress are provided with compliant means of illumination.
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	1
Description:	Some emergency lights are installed and are on emergency power.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Inadequate emergency exit lighting
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install emergency lighting for all paths of egress. Illumination needs to be a minimum of 10 lux for all corridors, exit doors and stairways. Illumination for aisles needs to be a minimum of 2.5 lux.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.7 Egress Illumination and Part 10 Section 10.12 Illumination of Exit Signs and Means Of Escape
Question:	Stair designation signs are provided at each floor entrance from the stair to the floor in English and Bengali. Signs indicate the name of the stair and the floor level. Signs are posted adjacent to the door.
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	Stair designation signs were not posted.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No signage provided
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install signage adjacent to each stair door indicating the stair name and the floor level in both English and Bengali.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.9 Stairs

### Fire Safety Programs

Factory Name: Sparrow Apparels Ltd

Address: Plot No. 251, Chandona, Dhaka Dhaka Dhaka Bangladesh

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Question:	A written housekeeping policy is established and enforced.
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	Housekeeping in the facility was found to be generally good. There were only a few instances where waste was not readily picked up. However, there were several where trash was stored that include combustible materials in stair landings, under exit stairs, and in roof areas.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Photograph 1 and 2: Trash was stored in stair landings, under exit stairs, and in roof areas.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Permanently remove all storage, trash, foreign material and foreign equipment out of the stairs. Implement additional housekeeping policies to keep the stairs and egress paths free of storage and impediments.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.6 Housekeeping

