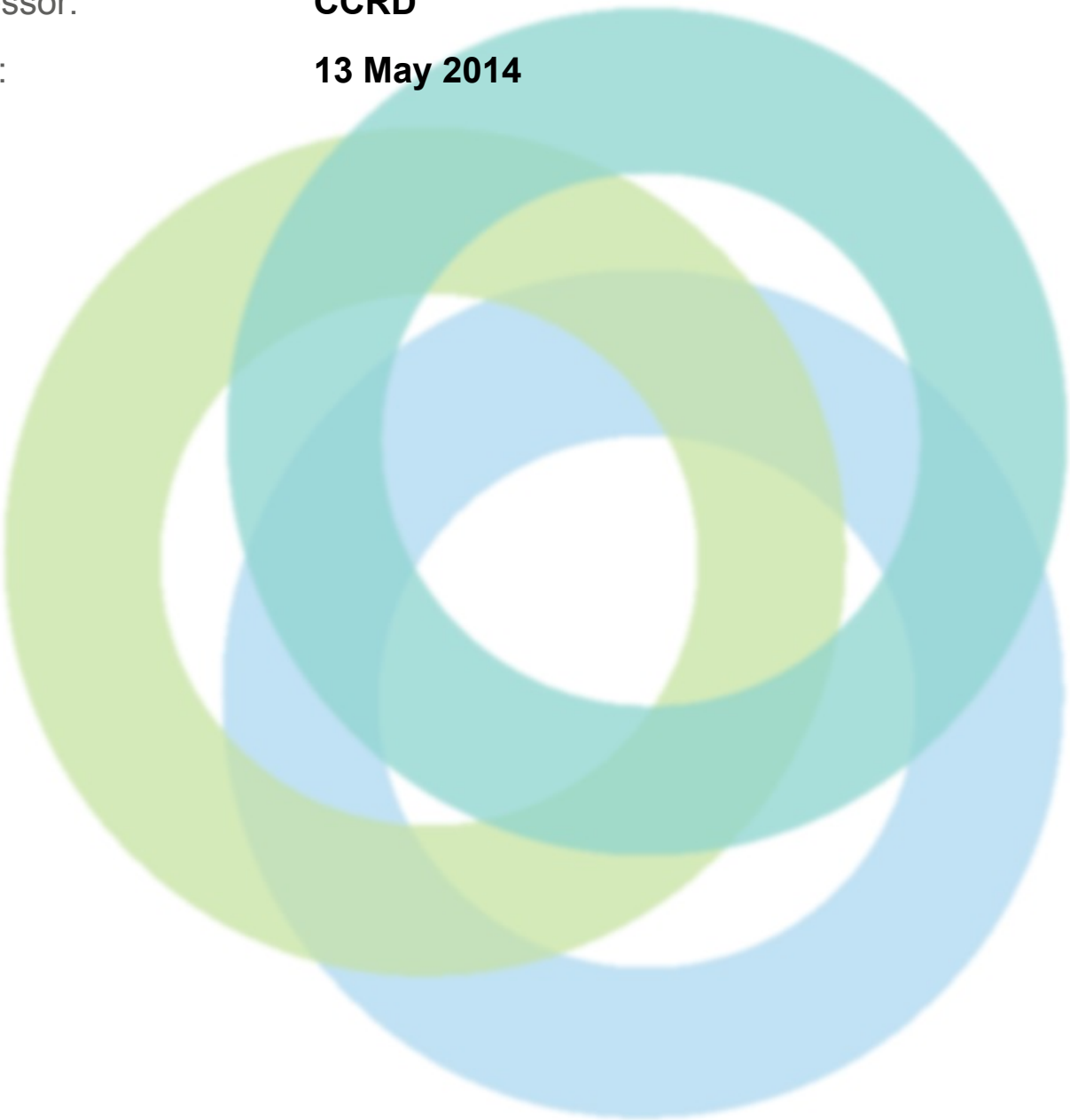


INITIAL FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT (FAR)

Factory Name: **Columbia Garments Ltd**
Address: **Vogra, Chandana, Gazipur Sadar, Gazipur Gazipur
Dhaka Bangladesh**
Assessor: **CCRD**
Date: **13 May 2014**



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:	Columbia Garments Ltd
Address:	Vogra, Chandana, Gazipur Sadar, Gazipur Gazipur Dhaka Bangladesh
Country:	Bangladesh
Province:	Dhaka
City:	Gazipur
Zip Code:	1704
Audit Duration:	
Re-Audit:	Re-Audit After 0 Months
Draft Report Date:	Jun 2 2014
Final Report Date:	Jun 30 2014
Are all Action Items From Previous Assessment Completed?:	N/A
Buildings in Complex:	1 main factory 2 ancillary sheds
Is the building(s) owned or rented by the Factory:	Owned
Number of Building Levels (Stories):	2
Approximate Building Area (SF):	7772 sq. m
Date of Building Construction:	2000
Date of Last Building Renovation/Addition:	2001
Ancillary Structures in Complex:	storage generator misc.
Approximate Ancillary Structures Area (SF):	unknown
Number of Occupants:	2000

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Number of Ancillary Levels (Stories):	1
Occupancy Type:	garment factory washing plant
Construction Type:	steel brick walls concrete floors
Height of Highest Occupied Floor Level Above Grade:	4.37 m



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: Penetrations not protected	
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:	Are exit enclosures provided with fire-resistive rated construction barriers?	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Stairs are not separated with rated shafts. Doors in stair wells are unrated and not closed.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: The stairwell is open to the floor at the top.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Protect all egress stairs with a shaft enclosure including 2-hour fire-rated construction. Install fire rated doors with required hardware.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
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:	Hazardous area including storage are open to the factory.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No separation of hazard area	



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

Fire Protection Systems

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 automatic fire alarm system is present.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Fire alarm panel
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 Defence as 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 Defense can be set up, a person shall be assigned to contact the fire department in the event of fire alarm activation. An annunciator shall be located in a constantly attended location (such as a fire control room) to alert this person.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.7.5 Monitoring



Means of Egress

Question:	Occupant loads on each level (floor) do not exceed the capacity of the available means of egress.
Priority Level:	High
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	1st floor load=1035 capacity=787
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Occupant loads exceed capacity
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install additional exit stairs to meet the occupant load of the 1st floor. Alternately, reduce the occupancy of the 1st floor to the calculated capacity of 787.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014



Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.4 Occupant Load	
Question:	Exit discharge is directly to the exterior of the building, unless the requirements of 6.17.2 are met, at grade or provides direct access to grade. Exit discharge shall not reenter a building.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Stair 1 discharges in to the lobby/reception area. Stair 3 discharges into the interior of the building. Stair 4 discharges near the exterior.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Stair 3 discharges into the interior of the building.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Modify stairs or create exit pathways that discharge directly to the exterior.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.17 Exit Discharge. See Section 16.7.2 and 16.7.3 for exceptions.	
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:	Existing doors are not listed and rated.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Non-rated doors	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all existing doors, gates hardware tracks and devices. Install listed rated fire doors in all stair shafts and fire walls with required approved 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:	Existing doors include sliding gates and roll up doors.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Non-compliant doors	
Suggested Plan of	Remove all existing doors, gates hardware tracks and devices. Install listed	



Action:	rated fire doors in all stair shafts and fire walls with required approved hardware.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates	
Question:	Interior exit stairways and ramps terminate at an exit discharge except where terminating at a rated exit passageway.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Stair 3 discharges to the interior.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Interior stair discharge	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Reroute stair discharge to the exterior.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.14 Exit Enclosures	
Question:	Means of egress are free from impediments, obstructions, and stored materials.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	1	
Description:	Boxes are stored against the walls intruding into egress widths.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Boxes are stored against the walls intruding into egress widths.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all storage from egress paths and keep corridors completely clear.	
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:	1	
Description:	Stair 4 includes a roll up door at the ground level locked open.	



Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Locking device	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all exiting roll up and sliding doors, hasps, locks, slide bolts, and other locking devices and install listed fire doors with approved hardware.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates	
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 loads are posted.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No signage provided	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Create signs and post as required.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.4.4 Posting of Occupant Load	



Question:	Changes in elevation of walking surfaces do not exceed 6.35 mm (1/4 in) unless provided with a beveled slope of 1 in 2 that does not exceed 12.7 mm (1/2 in).
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	The paths of egress outside the building include alleys with many changes in elevation. These "sideways steps" severely impede travel and compromise egress width.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Egress alley widths are impeded with "sideways steps"
Suggested Plan of Action:	Rework the alleys to create a level walking surface for the full width of the alley.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.3.4 Walking Surfaces
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:	No handrails are provided on the outside of each stair. No handrails are provided at stair discharges down to grade.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Handrails on one side only
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install handrails on both sides of all stairs including discharge steps
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 were present and installed on emergency power.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Insufficient egress 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:	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:	1	
Description:	Exit signs are posted only at exits.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Insufficient exit signage	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install additional lighted exit signs so that a sign is visible from every location in the building.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.11 Exit Signs	
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 are not provided at all required locations.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Signage insufficient	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install signs on all floor landings.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.9 Stairs	
Fire Safety Programs		



Question:	Storage areas underneath the cutting tables are clear of combustibles.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	There is storage under the cutting tables.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Cutting tables	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all storage from under the cutting tables.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 17 Section 13.7.2 Cutting tables.	
Question:	Emergency egress maps are posted at the entrance to each exit stair or main point of egress.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	1	
Description:	Egress maps are posted near most, but not all stair entrances.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Additional signage needed	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install egress maps at the few stair entrances where they are missing.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.4 Evacuation Plan	
Question:	A hot-work permit program has been established.	
Priority Level:	Low	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	No hot work program is in place.	
Source of Findings:	Worker Interviews: Factory managers stated that there is no hot work program	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Implement a hot work permit program. The program shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 51B.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.4 Hot Work Permit and NFPA 51B	
Question:	A written housekeeping policy is established and enforced.	

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Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	1
Description:	Boxes were stored against the walls intruding the path of egress.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Boxes blocking egress
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove all storage from egress areas and keep corridors completely clear.
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.6 Housekeeping