INITIAL FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT (FAR)

Factory Name: **TITAS SWEATER INDUSTRIES LTD.**

Address: **Kashimpur Road, Gazipur, Bangladesh. Gazipur Dhaka Bangladesh**

Assessor: **Sumerra**

Date: **28 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:	TITAS SWEATER INDUSTRIES LTD.
Address:	Kashimpur Road, Gazipur, Bangladesh. Gazipur Dhaka Bangladesh
Country:	Bangladesh
Province:	Dhaka
City:	Gazipur
Zip Code:	
Audit Duration:	2 Days
Re-Audit:	Re-Audit After 0 Months
Draft Report Date:	7-Jul-14
Final Report Date:	10-Jul-14
Are all Action Items From Previous Assessment Completed?:	N/A
Buildings in Complex:	1 Main Building
Is the building(s) owned or rented by the Factory:	Owned
Number of Building Levels (Stories):	6 stories
Approximate Building Area (SF):	129674 sft (Ground floor: 22035 sft , 1st - 4th floor: 24462 sft, 5th floor: 9791 sft.)
Date of Building Construction:	Construction period of this building is up to 4 storied 2003 & rest 4th, 5th floor was costructed 2008.
Date of Last Building Renovation/Addition:	2008 (4th & 5th Floor)
Ancillary Structures in Complex:	Boiler. Chemical Electrical LT room
Approximate Ancillary Structures Area (SF):	15'3"x10'6" + 25'x18' + 28'6"x9'10" = 890 sft.
Number of Occupants:	1950

Number of Ancillary Levels (Stories):	Single storied tin shed building bounded by 5 in. brick wall
Occupancy Type:	Main Building: G2 Other Buildings: K
Construction Type:	Type I
Height of Highest Occupied Floor Level Above Grade:	60 ft

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Fire Protection Construction

Question:	Are exit enclosures provided with fire-resistive rated construction barriers?	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	3	
Description:	Exit enclosures (stairs) are not provided with fire-resistive rated construction barriers. Exits are not protected by fire doors.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Typical door to exit stairs	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Factory will need to install fire rated door assemblies at all exits to stair enclosures (1.5 hour rating). Fire doors assemblies shall conform to NFPA 252, BS 476 Part 22, EN 1364-1, GB 12955-2008, or IS 3614. Part II. Doors must remain in closed position or be of self-closing type. 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:	08 Dec 2014	
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:		
Description:		
Source of Findings:		
Suggested Plan of Action:		
Suggested Deadline Date:		
Standard:	Are certificates of occupancy provided for each building or ancillary structure?	

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:	Factory has manual alarm system and single point battery powered smoke detectors. As per Alliance Standard 5.7.3.6 an automatic fire alarm and detection system shall be provided. The current number of single point detectors is insufficient. (Factory is in process of installing automatic system)
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Single point smoke detectors
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install automatic fire alarm system with sufficient smoke/heat detectors as per NFPA 72. Automatic detectors should be tied into the fire alarm system. Alarm system should initiate occupant notification upon activation of detectors in addition to the manual fire alarm stations. All fire alarm installations shall be submitted for review by the Alliance for review prior to commencement of installation.
Suggested Deadline Date:	08 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:	Are fire department connections provided and clearly identified for the Fire Protection Systems?
Priority Level:	Medium
Non-Compliance Level:	3
Description:	FDC are provided, however connections are not marked with proper signage.
Source of Findings:	Photograph: No signage on FDC
Suggested Plan of Action:	Signage for standpipe system shall be in compliance with NFPA 14 Chapter 6 (e.g. sign on Fire Department connection indicating STANDPIPE in 1 in lettering)
Suggested Deadline Date:	12 Aug 2014
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:	Factory has manual alarm system without a central panel or control room and

	alarm status is not centrally monitored.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No central panel installed yet.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Upon installation of automatic alarm system and accompanying alarm panel, arrange for direct connection to monitoring service or Fire Service and Civil Defense. If connection is not possible, until that time that it is, 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 to alert this person.
Suggested Deadline Date:	08 Dec 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 5 Section 5.7.5 Monitoring
Question:	Is signage for the standpipe system installed at required locations and on required components?
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	No signage available for standpipe system in compliance with NFPA 14.
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: No signage observed
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install signage in compliance with NFPA 14 Chapter 6 (e.g. Hydraulic Design Information Sign, signage for FDC, etc.)
Suggested Deadline Date:	12 Aug 2014
Standard:	Reference NFPA 14 Chapter 6
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:	no fire rated doors
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Doors along the path of egress have a minimum width
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove existing gates and unrated doors in the means of egress. Install approved fire rated doors that are listed, permanently labeled, automatic-closing, in compatible fire rated frames with latching hardware.
Suggested Deadline Date:	30 Nov 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:	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:	Hasps are present.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Doors are not locked in the direction of egress	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Remove existing gates and doors in the means of egress including all locking devices. Install doors with approved 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:	All doors in a means of egress are of the side-hinged swinging type.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Door to some of exits/stairs are metal collapsible gate style.	
Source of Findings:	Photograph: Slider door to exit stairs	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Replace existing slider type exit doors with side hinged swinging type doors per Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	08 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.8 Doors and Gates	
Question:	Exterior exit stairs are separated from the building with the required rating. The rating of the exterior wall shall extend 3.05 m (10 ft) beyond the ends of the stair structure.	
Priority Level:	High	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Exterior stairs do not have fire rated doors at openings to exterior exit.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Exterior exit stairs are separated but do not have fire rated doors.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide required fire rated construction for walls adjacent to exterior stairs. Fill any openings (windows, etc.) that are within 10 feet of the stairs with fire rated	

	construction.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.3.1.2. Three stories or less 1-hr rating. Four stories of more 2-hr rating	
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:	Occupant loads are not posted in any floor.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Occupant loads are not posted	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Post maximum occupant load for all areas (near exit) as per Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.4.4 Posting of Occupant Load	
Suggested Deadline Date:	25 Jul 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 6 Section 6.4.4 Posting of Occupant Load	
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:	3	
Description:	Handrails are provided only on one side of all stairwells (height is ok)	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: Handrails are provided on one side of stairwell	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Install handrails on both sides of all stairwells as per Alliance Standard part 6 Section 6.9 Stairs and 6.12 Handrails and Guards	
Suggested Deadline Date:	08 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 6.9 Stairs and 6.12 Handrails and Guards	
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:	2'-11"	

Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: height is 2'-11"	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide parapets or guards with a minimum height of 42 in. for all occupiable roof areas.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	31 Dec 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standard Part 6 Section 12 Handrails and Guards	
Question:	All paths of egress are provided with compliant means of illumination.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Emergency light with battery backup not installed in all stair and at exit doors.	
Source of Findings:	Visual Assessment: All paths of egress (stairs) not provided with compliant means of illumination.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide emergency lights in stairwells and at all exits. Confirm the light (by testing) is sufficient to emit 1 foot candle (10 lux) of light at any point in the building and 0.1 foot candle (1 lux) of light along the emergency exit path at floor level. Regular testing should be conducted and documented to confirm adherence to standards. Illumination shall be a minimum of 10 lux for all corridors, exit doors and stairways. Illumination for aisles shall be a minimum of 2.5 lux.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	12 Aug 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:	Are there additional areas of non-compliance related to the Means of Egress?	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:		
Description:		
Source of Findings:		
Suggested Plan of Action:		
Suggested Deadline Date:		
Standard:	Not Applicable	
Fire Safety Programs		
Question:	Training programs are implemented and documented in accordance with the	

	Alliance Safety Training Curriculum.	
Priority Level:	Medium	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	Several workers indicated that they had not received any fire safety training (or did not fully understand the training).	
Source of Findings:	Worker Interviews: Workers indicated that they had not recieved any or did not fully understand fire safety training	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Provide effective and understandable fire safety awareness training to all workers. Refer to Alliance Safety Training Curriculum.	
Suggested Deadline Date:	02 Sep 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13	
Question:	A Fire Safety Director position has been filled.	
Priority Level:	Low	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	No fire safety officer/ director position is available in the organizational chart.	
Source of Findings:	Document Review: No fire safety director position is available	
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 carry the required duties as per Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.1 Fire Safety Director	
Suggested Deadline Date:	12 Aug 2014	
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.1 Fire Safety Director	
Question:	Fire Department pre-planning has been completed.	
Priority Level:	Low	
Non-Compliance Level:	2	
Description:	No records of fire department pre-planning.	
Source of Findings:	Document Review: Fire Department pre-planning records not available.	
Suggested Plan of Action:	Complete fire department pre-planning activities with the local Fire Service and Civil Defense. Fire department pre-planning means providing the fire department with a map/plan that accurately shows a building’s floor plan, doors and other access points, hydrant locations, roof construction, alarm panel locations, utility shut-offs, contact information, and other important information required to most effectively fight a fire and evacuate the building.	

Suggested Deadline Date:	12 Aug 2014
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:	2
Description:	No such directives are established.
Source of Findings:	Document Review: No written housekeeping policy is established.
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 m2 (500 ft2). Limit dense deposits to 6 mm (¼ in.) and oil saturated deposits to 3.2 mm (⅛ in.). As per Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.6 Housekeeping
Suggested Deadline Date:	06 May 2015
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.6 Housekeeping
Question:	A hot-work permit program has been established.
Priority Level:	Low
Non-Compliance Level:	2
Description:	The factory premises has no facility for hot work.
Source of Findings:	Document Review: No written hot work policy is established.
Suggested Plan of Action:	Develop a hot work permit program. The program must comply with the requirements of NFPA 51B as per Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.4 Hot Work Permit and NFPA 51B
Suggested Deadline Date:	12 Aug 2014
Standard:	Alliance Standards Part 13 Section 13.4 Hot Work Permit and NFPA 51B