



RCC E-NEWSLETTER

Forwarding Bangladesh Towards Industrial Safety



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Message from Honorable State Minister MOLE

I convey my heartfelt greetings to the readers of the first issue of the RCC E-NEWSLETTER. I have always emphasized on building a positive image for RCC and this initiative by the Inspector General & the Project Director, RCC is a right step forward. This quarterly newsletter will help spread information regarding RCC activities to both internal and external stakeholders – both Government and International. I wish this initiative great success and hope the readers will appreciate it just as much.



Begum Monnujan Sufian MP
Ministry of Labour and Employment

Secretary MOLE Visits Remediated Factories

The ministry of Labour & Employment (MOLE) recently visited three factories under RCC - Debonair Limited, Orbitex Knitwear Limited and Fashion.com Limited at Ashulia in Savar on 7th September, 2019. Mr. K M Ali Azam, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment expressed his satisfaction overseeing the overall remediation progress of the three factories. He hoped that these factories will be issued remediation completion certificate from DIFE by next week. The secretary also informed the press that the overall remediation progress is 40% for the 697 Active factories under National Initiative.



DIFE inspector General Mr. Shib Nath Roy opined that the main reason behind the slow progress on remediation in the factories under the National Initiative is that these factories are relatively weak in terms of financial capabilities. DIG (Dhaka) Mr. Belal Ahmed and DIG (Safety) Mr. Kamrul Hasan were also present during the visit along with other RCC Officials & Engineers.

Workshop on RCC Operations Held

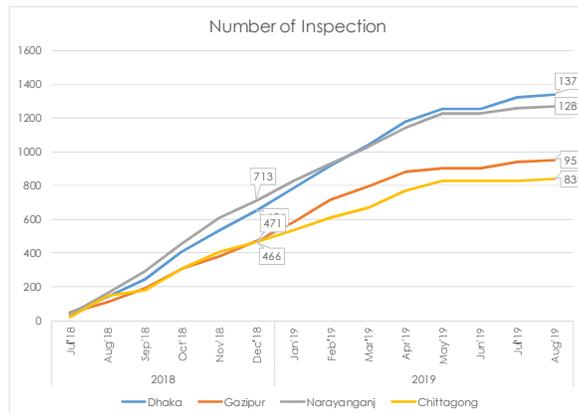
Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishments (DIFE) in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO) organized a workshop on RCC Operations. The day-long program was held on 28th May, 2019 at Intercontinental Hotel, Dhaka. The operational work plan and the future of RCC was on discussion in the tripartite participation from DIFE, ILO and Bureau Veritas. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Shib Nath Roy, Inspector General of DIFE. Mr. Joynal Abedin, Additional Inspector General of DIFE, Mr. George Faller, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO-RMGP Program were also present in the workshop.



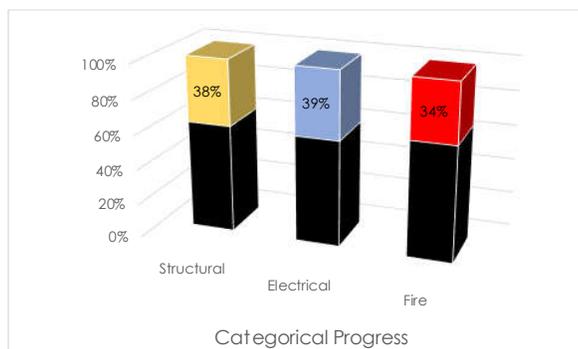
In his opening remarks, the Hon'ble IG emphasized on creating positive impression of RCC. He also suggested that categorized assignment of tasks is a must to ensure the optimal use of resources at RCC. Other important issues discussed in the workshop included Escalation Protocol, better use of RTM, revision of RCC organizational structure, what is working well & what is not related to RCC and working modality on the joint work plan of all stakeholders working in RCC. In the closing remarks, Project Director of RCC, Mr. A K M Salehuddin expected cordial assistance from all stakeholders to strengthen RCC for achieving its goal of ensuring safety in industries through remediation.

RCC Continues Effort in Remediation

Since RCC's inception, DIFE Engineers and Labour Inspectors initially visited the NI factories to follow-up & observe remediation progress. After RCC recruited its own resources- 14 under ILO's Implementation Agreement, 54 through ILO's contract with Bureau Veritas and 60 engineers through CAP Implementation Project under GoB, DIFE Labour Inspectors kept assisting the RCC engineers in the follow-up visits. More than 14,000 visits were completed by DIFE Labour Inspectors since the preliminary assessment in 2015 till July'18 when RCC involved its own manpower. Since then, RCC engineers completed 4448 visits (as of August'19) on NI Factories. Besides the NI Factories, RCC Engineers have also visited 81 Accord Handled-over factories during this time.



Out of the 697 active factories, there are 3028 initial Structural CAPs, 19,257 Electrical CAPs and 13,999 Fire-related CAPs are currently under observation. Among these, 38% of the Structural CAPs, 39% of the Electrical & 34% of the Fire CAPs have been observed to have completed.



Based on the categorical completion progress, it can be said that Overall Remediation Progress is currently at around 40%.

Taskforce Meetings Reach Milestone of 200

At RCC's inauguration, 2 Taskforces - Structural & Fire were formed at the 8th NTC meeting held on 23rd December, 2014. Out of operational necessity, decision was taken to form an Electrical Taskforce on the 12th NTC meeting. The Taskforce for Structural, Electrical and Fire safety checks the design and drawings of the structure, electrical arrangement and fire protection system of each factory and approves them following Bangladesh National Building Code and other National Safety Standards. The core functions of the Taskforce are-



1. Selecting and shortlisting of DEA Consultant for structural, fire and electrical issues
2. Track CAP along with time frame
3. Monitor the remedial works undertaken by factories
4. Review, approve & verify design drawings submitted for remediation works

Recently, Taskforce reached the milestone of 200 meetings altogether. In total, 230 Taskforce meetings have been arranged by DIFE/RCC (as of August'19). A summary of individual Taskforce status is given below.

Taskforce	# of meetings held	Number of CAPs							
		Total received	Total Reviewed	Recommended for Correction	Approved	Retrofitting Suggested	Retrofitting Done	No retrofitting required	Pending
Structural	122	292	250	218	32	22	5	10	42
Electrical	39	319	255	160	95	N/A	N/A	N/A	64
Fire	69	288	223	184	39	N/A	N/A	N/A	65
Grand Total	230	899	728	562	166	22	5	10	171

Technical Review Meetings start at RCC

In order to expedite the remediation works of RCC factories, RCC Senior engineers have taken the initiative to arrange Technical Review Meeting (TRM) with the factory management regularly. This meeting is an open discussion between RCC and factory authority to review remediation status in terms of CAP, design and drawings, and any other technical issues. The objectives of the TR meeting are:

- ✓ To maintain better communication with the factory owners
- ✓ To review CAP progress status
- ✓ To review design & drawing status and implementation status
- ✓ To ensure total/complete remediation of factories under RCC

So far, 12 TR meetings have been held where 12 factories (Rahman Knit Garments, B. Brothers Garments Co. Ltd, S.I Knitting, Balaka Stitch to name a few) attended.

RCC Completes Follow-up Visit on Accord Handed-over Factories

As per the decision of the Honorable High court, Accord handed over 100 factories to the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) in 2018. In first phase, 20 No Brand factories were handed over to DIFE on 28th October, 2018 and in the second phase, 80 factories (that have completed 100% remediation on initial assessment) along with supporting documents were handed over to DIFE on 18th December, 2018. Of the 100 handed over factories, 81 are Active factories, 16 are located in EPZ area hence out of DIFE/RCC's jurisdiction and 3 factories were found closed. RCC sent its CAP Engineers along with DIFE officials to visit the No Brand factories while RCC BV Team completed the follow-up inspection of the 100% remediated factories.

Overall Progress	SSA Progress	FSA Progress	ESA Progress	New Findings
90%	87%	91%	89%	4%

After completion of follow-up inspection, it has been observed that overall remediation was at 90% on the 81 Accord handed over factories. In that, structural remediation completion was at 87%, fire safety remediation at 91% and electrical remediation completion at 89%. Besides the handed over CAPs, 4% new non-compliances were observed on those Accord handed over factories.

DIFE-ILO Sponsored Capacity Building Training Starts

DIFE has scheduled a six-month long Training program through Bureau Veritas Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd funded by ILO on Industrial Safety Regulations, Testing and maintenance on Alarm and Fire suppression, Orientation on DEA guidelines, Electrical Safety Training, which started on 21st April, 2019. Mr. Shib Nath Roy, Inspector General of DIFE inaugurated the training session with the presence of Engr. Farid Ahmed, JIG-Safety, DIFE, Mr. George Faller, CTA and Mr. Maurice L Brooks, Workplace Safety Specialist from RMG Programme, ILO, Mr. Sohail Azad, Country Manager, Bureau Veritas (Bangladesh) Pvt. Ltd (BV) and Major Kazi Wahidul Haque (Retd.), Chief Safety Officer, Case Management & Engineering Support to RCC. The Inspector General of DIFE stated that this training is very important for inspectors and engineers for enhancing their capacity building and was confident that after this training the participants will be able to play an active role in RCC. The knowledge transfer workshop for Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC) on BNBC-2006, Fire act and Industrial Safety regulation was held from 21, 23-25 April, 2019 at Hotel Century Park. At first phase, DIFE inspectors and RCC Engineers participated in the training program. Other stakeholders like FSCD, BGMEA/BKMEA, RAJUK/CDA, City Corporation, CEI, CIB will also be receiving this training in later phases.

Common Mistakes Observed in Structural Design Drawings

During design drawing reviewing, the Taskforce members & RCC Senior Engineers have observed some common mistakes in the submissions that lengthen the design drawing approval process and consequentially hamper the remediation progress. To overcome this, our Senior Engineers have compiled a list of common mistakes that should be kept under consideration while submitting design and drawings.

General Mistakes

1. Missing of necessary documents/reports
2. Missing of Master Layout of factory premises
3. Partial submission of documents of all buildings and sheds in the factory premises

Mistakes in Architectural and Structural Drawings

1. Not mentioning direction sign on layout plan
2. Detail dimensions of every floor
3. Missing of occupancy details of the floor areas
4. Not showing factory locations in shared buildings
5. Mismatch in cross sections and elevations
6. Not mentioning roof top sheds in the drawings
7. Incomplete building elevation
8. Not providing information regarding OHWT
9. Not showing stair details properly
10. Not providing information of source drawings
11. Missing of reinforcement details of structural members
12. Mismatch of structural details with Ferro Scan report

News Snippets

- ✓ Escalation Protocol was approved on the 15th NTC meeting held on 31st July 2019
- ✓ As of September'19, 393 Factories remain on Round-3, 197 on Round-4 (Factory Export License Suspended) & 105 Factories reached Round-5 (received Factory Closure Notice) under Escalation Protocol
- ✓ RCC CAP Implementation project has been extended for 2 more years, the RDPP receiving administrative approval on 26th August 2019
- ✓ A view-exchange meeting between DIFE/RCC and Owners of Round-5 Factories was held at Gazipur DIG Office