



RCC E-NEWSLETTER

Forwarding Bangladesh Towards Industrial Safety



Issue: December 2019 || Publishing Date: 30th December 2019

Message from Honorable Secretary MOLE

In its continuing effort to communicate their activities to concerned parties & ensure operational transparency, RCC is publishing their second quarterly newsletter this month, for which I applaud them. Although RCC is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring safety in the RMG factories, it can not attain its goal without the assistance & willingness to achieve the same from the factory owners. On my visit to three factories under RCC monitoring back in September this year, I made a promise that those factories would soon get completion certificate from the concerned authority upon verification of remediation implementation. I'm glad to hear that RCC engineers have been working to fulfill that promise and after several verification & validation visits, those factories have been cleared for completion certificate from DIFE. I congratulate the management of those factories, DIFE, RCC & everyone involved in the process and wish them great success in the upcoming days.



K.M. Ali Azam
Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment

6th TCC Meeting on RMG held at DIFE

The 6th Meeting of the Tripartite Consultation Council (TCC) on RMG, organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment was held at Shromo Bhaban on Wednesday, 23 October 2019. The meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble State Minister for the Ministry of Labour and Employment and President of the Tripartite Consultation Council, Begum Monnujan Sufian MP. Ms. Shirin Akhter MP, Mr. K M Ali Azam, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Mr. Shib Nath Roy, Inspector General of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, Dr. Rubana Haque, BGMEA President and Mr. Kamran T Rahman, President of the Employers Federation, Mr. Fazlul Haque Montu, President of Jatiya Sramik League were present among others in the meeting. High officials from MOLE and representatives from Owners as well as Labour Associations also attended the meeting.



Secretary MOLE & IG DIFE welcomes Hon'ble Minister at DIFE office

60 Engineers Join RCC for the Revised CAP Project

The CAP Implementation Project, funded by the Government of Bangladesh, was initially approved for one-year period (July'18 – June'19), in an effort to facilitate the remediation monitoring activities in factories under RCC. However, since remediation monitoring is a continuous process, a revised proposal was later submitted to the Ministry of Planning, with an extended timeline for 2 more years (July'19 – June'21). The proposal was approved by the Ministry of Planning on August 18th 2019. After approval, the CAP Implementation Project called for Expression of Interest (Eoi) from Consulting Firms to provide 60 Engineers with specific qualifications to be assigned to 4 RMG-densed districts – Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj & Chottogram. After due process, four Consulting Firms were shortlisted for submission of proposal, among which L. R. International, a renowned firm was selected on the merit of Highest Technical capacity evaluated by the PEC. Upon signing the contract with the CAP Project Director, L. R. International recruited & provided 20 Structural, 20 Electrical & 20 Fire Safety Engineers who joined the CAP Project on 11th November 2019. Among the 60 newly joined engineers, 48 have been assigned Factory Inspection duties while the rest have been assigned at the Head Office, to support Initial Design Review & Case Management activities for RCC.

RCC Office shifted to Shromo Bhaban

Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC) has shifted its operations to the newly constructed 22-storied Shromo Bhaban at 196, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Sharani, Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka. Previously the RCC head office was situated at 20-21 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. As DIFE, the Implementation Agency for RCC, was assigned 7 floors (7th - 13th floor) in the Shromo Bhaban, the RCC Head Office moved in on the 7th & 8th floor of the building at the end of November'19. The 7th floor accommodates the RCC Project Director's Office, RCC Operations Team along with the Design Review and Case Management Teams, & the 8th floor accommodates IKMS Team & other RCC Engineers.



Success Story : Fashion.com Limited



Fashion.com Limited, a factory under National Initiative located at Durgapur, Boro Rangamatia, Zirabo, Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka has recently received CAP completion certificate from DIFE. This factory, an initiative by Alps Apparels Group, was initially assessed by BUET back in 23rd January, 2014 for Fire & Electrical safety and on 15th April, 2014 for Structural safety. The factory management, persuaded by the RCC Engineers, submitted the DEA in July 2018 and Fire & Electrical design drawings in late 2018 for approval.

For Structural safety, DEA was presented in the Taskforce five times and was finally approved on the 46th Structural Taskforce meeting held on October 3rd 2018. Based on the Taskforce's recommendation, Business as usual certificate for Structural safety was issued on 10th October 2018. Electrical drawing was approved on the 21st Electrical Taskforce meeting held on 6th December 2018. After incorporating a number of revisions & corrections recommended by the Taskforce, the Fire design drawing of Fashion.com was finally approved on the 54th Taskforce (fire) meeting held on 23rd May 2019.

After receiving the approval, guided by the RCC Engineers, the factory authority started remediation process and closed all non-conformities as per initial assessment. Upon receiving the application for completion certificate from the factory management, final inspection and verification visit for Structural was held on 10th July 2019 and Fire & Electrical verification was held on 22nd September 2019 by DIFE-RCC Engineers. The final inspection verification report was then presented on the 72th Taskforce (Fire) and 41st Taskforce (Electrical). The Taskforce checked & found the remediation work to be "Satisfactory" and recommended for issuing CAP completion certificate. Finally CAP completion certificate for Fire & Electrical safety was issued on 21st November 2019. RCC congratulates Fashion.com on its achievement and hopes that more factories will follow its example in ensuring factory safety.

Factories under National Initiative Gets 6 More Months

Ministry of Labour & Employment (MOLE) and Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishment (DIFE) have extended the deadline for completion of remediation works in some of the Ready Made Garments factories under National Initiative to up to six months. In a meeting with National Initiative factory owners and representatives, the ministry extended the remediation deadline for these factories from 2 to up to 6 months.

A total of 323 factories from Dhaka, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Tangail, Gazipur and Narayanganj, who are under Round-3 of Escalation protocol and hence have their License Renewal put on hold, attended the meeting held at the newly constructed Shromo Bhaban, on October 9th & 10th.



BGMEA President sharing her views with Secretary MOLE, IG DIFE & PD RCC

The meeting was presided over by Mr. K M Ali Azam, Secretary of Ministry of Labour & Employment and organized by Mr. Shib Nath Roy, Inspector General of DIFE. Dr. Rubana Huq, BGMEA president, Professor Dr. Mehedi Ahmed Ansary and Professor Dr. Kais Zaman from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Mr. Joynul Abedin, Additional Inspector General, DIFE, Mr. A K M Salehuddin, Project Director of RCC and Mr. Farid Ahmed, DIFE's Joint Inspector General (Safety), DIFE were also among the attendees.

Secretary MOLE mentioned that the Government does not want to close down any factory but factories have to ensure workplace safety to run their business. He also declared that 'Utilization Declaration (UD) will be cancelled for factories in which remediation progress is stagnant'. However, there were factories who showed significant progress & willingness to remediate, so based on BGMEA's recommendation they were allowed 2 to 6 more months to complete remediation.

After completing the initial inspections in September 2015, the authorities of RMG factories under the National Initiative continued to ignore DIFE-RCC's persuasion to expedite factory remediation and the Government has extended the timeline again and again without taking any punitive action, DIFE Inspector General Mr. Shib nath Roy said. He warned that if they miss the new deadline, these factories will not get any time extension in the future.

Taskforce Meetings Crosses 250

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 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 have crossed the milestone of 250 meetings altogether. In total, 262 Taskforce meetings have been arranged by DIFE-RCC (as of December'19). Status Summary of these individual Taskforces is given below.

Task force	No. of Meetings Held	No. of Factories								
		Total Received	Total Reviewed	Recommended for Correction	Approved	Retraining Suggested	Retraining Done	No Retraining Required	Completion Certificate Issued	
Structural	140	302	264	231	35	20	7	15	9	
Electrical	41	345	280	175	101	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	
Fire	81	308	263	210	53	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	
Grand Total	262	955	807	616	189	20	7	15	12	

To further expedite the Design Review Process, RCC has strengthened its Design Review Team by assigning 6 additional Engineers recently.

Training on Fire & Electrical Safety Held for RCC Engineers

Bureau Veritas (BV), aimed at providing support for capacity building of Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC), arranged two training & knowledge transfer programs on 'Electrical Safety Engineering' and 'Fire Safety Engineering' on November & December of 2019. Both programs, supported by International Labor Organization (ILO), were held at Hotel Canary Park, Gulshan.

The training & knowledge transfer session on 'Electrical Safety Engineering' was held from 23th to 28th November 2019. Thirty participants from different government organizations (23 from RAJUK, BKMEA, Ministry of Power Energy & Mineral Resources, Fire Service & Civil Defense, and 7 Electrical Safety Engineers from RCC) attended the program. Through continuous 360-degree feedback, contents of the program were designed to enhance and enrich skills of the trainees. The program covered valuable insights on Electrical Safety, Electrical Hazards and Risks, Safe Design, Installation and Operation. Key Speaker at the program was Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Khan, Professor, Dept. of EEE, BUET. The session also included field visit to Matrix Apparels (Mirpur) and Standard Group (Kalshi) on the fifth day.

The training & knowledge transfer program on 'Fire and Safety Engineering' was held from 1st to 9th December 2019. 24 employees from RAJUK, BKMEA, Fire Service & Civil Defense and 7 Fire Safety Engineers from RCC attended the program. The training discussed valuable Technical Insights on Fire Safety Issues in Bangladesh & way forward, Designing Fire Alarm & Detection System, Sprinkler & Hydrant system as well as Troubleshooting and Maintenance of each system mentioned. Engr. Brig. Gen Ali Ahmed Khan (Retd.), Advisor to Mayor DNCC on Fire Safety Management, was the Key Speaker in the session. The workshop also arranged a day long field visit to Jaber & Jubayer Fashion Ltd and Sharpe Fashion Ltd, in order to give the trainees a hands-on approach on the transferred knowledge.

Common Mistakes Observed in Fire Safety 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 checked while submitting design and drawings.

Common Mistakes in Fire Separation Drawing:

- Missing Site layout plan and roof layout, Sectional & elevation drawing, Detail stair sections, Door & window details, Occupancy for each part of each floor
- Floor area, height and dimension, graphic scale not mentioned on every page
- Legend is not provided as per NFPA 170 (13/15 edition)
- Fire separation rating of partition wall not shown
- Assembly point, Aisle width not mentioned
- Travel distance from remote most point of any floor could not be verified, as dimension not shown on the Floor plan
- Safe exit discharge from stairs or final exits could not be verified, as no master layout plan provided

Common Mistakes in Fire Alarm & Detection System Design:

- Missing Technical data sheet/ Product specification
- Battery calculation, Voltage drop calculation, Conduit fill calculation & Input Output Matrix are not provided
- Missing Floor Area on every page, Floor wise devices quantity chart, General note, Space between devices & dimensions
- Installation guidelines not provided
- Missing Single line diagram and Proper Riser diagram
- Location of the Fire Alarm Control Panel not shown

Common Mistakes in Fire Hydrant & Standpipe System Design:

- Missing Hydraulic Calculation, Site layout plan
- Missing General notes/Design consideration, graphic scale on every page
- Missing Technical Data sheet/Product Specs/Installation guideline
- Missing Quantity of devices (Floor wise devices quantity chart is recommended)
- Legend is not provided as per NFPA 170

A detailed list of common mistakes can be found on RCC website.