

RSC REQUIREMENTS: EXTENSION OF FACTORY BUILDINGS

Updated September 2021

This document explains the RSC requirements if extensions will be made to existing and interim RSC factory buildings, as outlined in the RSC Technical Guidelines (Standard).

All RSC covered factories are inspected under the RSC Technical Guidelines (Standard). Extensions made to existing RSC factory buildings after the date of the initial structural inspection must comply with the requirements of the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC).

The RSC Technical Guidelines (Standard) reads:

8.1.5

“Additions to Existing Structures. When an existing building or structure is substantially extended or otherwise altered, all portions thereof affected by such cause shall be strengthened, if necessary, to comply with the safety and serviceability requirements provided in the BNBC 2020.”

8.1.5.1

“This Standard utilizes the 2020 BNBC (modified as noted herein) as the applicable standard for new factory construction and for all expansions or modifications to existing factories. When and if a new Bangladesh National Building Code is issued by the applicable Code- developing body, it will be adopted as the applicable technical standard for new factories and all expansions or modifications to existing factories.”

8.1.5.2

“A substantial expansion will be interpreted to mean any new floor or roof levels or horizontal floor additions or similar new structure.”

Interpretive Guideline: An extension is construction of additional floor over existing structure and expansion is construction of additional spans (horizontal floor) via appropriate expansion joint connected to the existing structure.

This is further explained in article 8.23,

8.23 Notification to RSC of Planned Modifications to Factories. Prior to the implementation of any substantial structural expansion, alteration, or repair of an existing factory utilized by signatory brands, the Factory Owner shall notify the Chief Safety Officer of his intent.

The RSC requires all RSC factories that have started building extensions to:

- Cease the ongoing extension work.
- Conduct a Detailed Engineering Assessment (DEA) complying with the BNBC requirements and submit it to the RSC. Extension work can only be resumed when the RSC accepts the DEA.



New factory buildings

As outlined by articles 8.1.1 to 8.1.4 of the RSC Technical Guidelines (Standard), the new buildings must comply with the requirements of the BNBC:

8.1.1

New factories shall comply with the more stringent requirements of this Standard Guideline and the 2020 Bangladesh National Building Code plus code updates and jurisdictional circulars as they may be issued from time to time.

8.1.2

Existing factory buildings are those that the construction of which completed and an RMG factory is in operational at the time of adaptation of National Tripartite Plan of Action on fire safety and Structural integrity guideline (NTPA).

8.1.3

Interim buildings are those that used as RMG factories, the construction of which completed and an RMG factory is in operational from the time of adaptation of NTPA to issuing BNBC 2020. The structure of interim building shall comply with the 2006 Bangladesh National Building Code for the assessment.

8.1.4

For any substantial expansion of an existing factory and interim building, the expanded portions and the entire newly- configured factory structure shall comply with the requirements of Part 6 of the 2020 Bangladesh National Building Code.

Interpretive Guideline: Regardless of when a factory was constructed, the structural impact of any expansion on the entire structure must be analytically evaluated and confirmed by a qualified structural engineer.

