



# SAFE EVACUATION & SAFETY HAZARDS

IN READY-MADE GARMENT FACTORIES



RMG  
SUSTAINABILITY  
COUNCIL

## What is the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC)?

RMG Sustainability Council (RSC) is the International brands, garment manufacturers and trade unions joint initiative to sustain workplace safety in RMG factories in Bangladesh.

The RSC formed on 1 June 2020 with a view to carry over the work of Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh. The RSC will continue the work of factory inspections, remediation monitoring, safety training and an independent safety and health complaints mechanism for the workers of the RMG industry.

The company's vision is to be a world class safety programme, enabling sustainable business and developing the supply chain with its unique safety training programme, will continue to make the RMG industry a safe and better place to work.

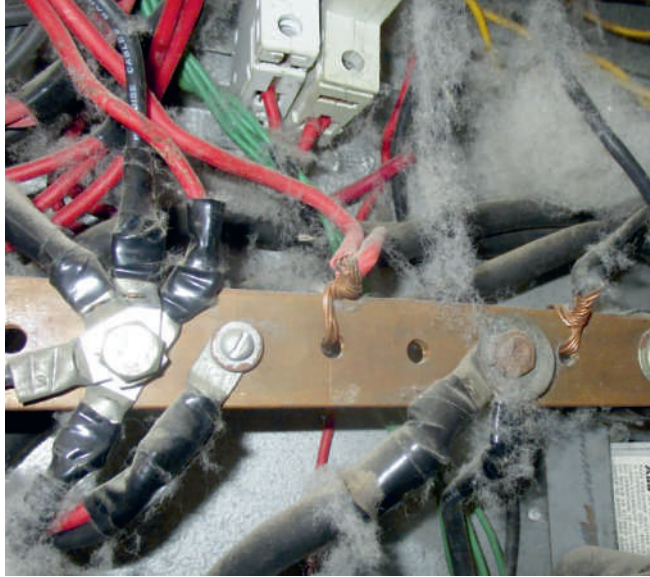
### What you will learn from this booklet:

1. How to safely evacuate the factory in case of fire or another emergency,
2. How to identify and reduce safety hazards at your workplace;
3. How your factory's Safety Committee and the RSC Office can help improve the safety at your workplace.

## Fire Hazards and Safe Evacuation



**Fires in a factory can be deadly. The smoke caused by fire is just as dangerous as the fire itself.**  
**Being prepared is crucial**



Dust and lint can catch fire if they are allowed to build up.

Look out for these **5 possible sources of fire:**

1. Open flames and flammable liquids used during work;
2. Bad electrical wiring;
3. Built-up of dust and dirt;
4. Smoking in restricted areas;
5. Trash and unused materials lying around.

When a fire starts, the fire alarm goes off.

If you see a fire before the alarm is activated, you should sound the alarm.

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It is important that you know where the exits are.  
The exit doors must be unlocked and free of obstacles.



**When you hear a fire alarm, exit the factory quickly and solely. Do not panic. Do not run.**

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Your factory should have fire drills - which are not announced in advance.



**Fire drills allow you to see if a safe and orderly evacuation is possible.**

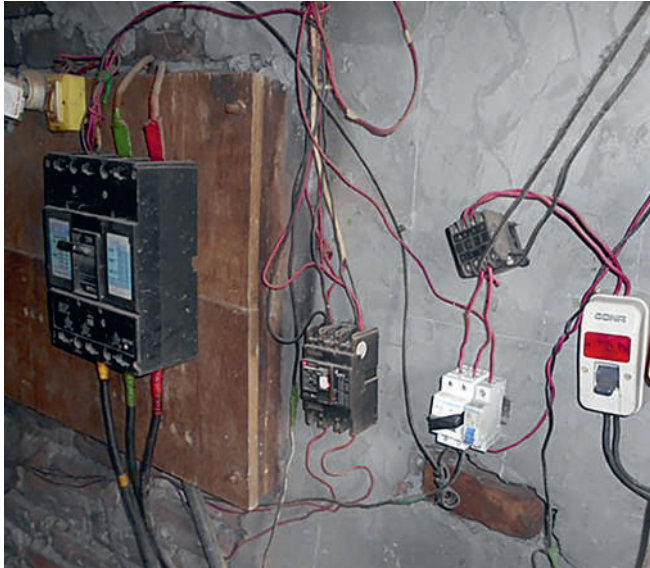


**You are not a fire fighter!**  
**When you hear the fire alarm, do not try to fight the fire.**  
**Do not try to put out the fire.**



**Your job is to safely exit the factory.**  
**The Fire Service will put out the fire.**





Overloaded outlets can cause electrical short circuits or fires.

## ⦿ Electrical Hazards

The **3** most common **electrical hazards** are:

1. Bad and faulty wires, old wires, wires left uncovered, wires hanging over machines;
2. Live wires- exposed wires left uninsulated or ungrounded;
3. Overloaded electrical outlets and boxes.

## • Structural Hazards

These are **3 signs** that your factory building may have **structural problems**:

1. Cracks in columns, walls or foundations;
2. A sagging floor,
3. Crumbling walls.

If you see any cracks or slants in the walls or floors, notify the Safety Committee. A structural engineer can make an accurate assessment and determine if the building needs repair.



**Putting too much weight on a floor can lead to the collapse of the floor or even the building.**



Training in the proper use of machines is essential.

## Machine Hazards

These are **5** potential **causes of injuries** when operating a machine:

1. A lack of machine guards to protect workers from moving parts;
2. Poor maintenance of machine;
3. Bad electrical connections or exposed wiring;
4. A lack of training for the machine operator;
5. A lack of personal protective equipment (PPE).



## 📍 Chemical Hazards

**Chemicals** can cause **health problems** if they are not properly stored and properly used.

If you work with chemicals, you should receive training about the potential dangers they pose.

## 📍 Hazards leading to Slips & Falls

**Slips and falls** can be avoided by ensuring that these **3 problems** are fixed:

1. Slippery floors;
2. Obstacles on the work floor (fabric, wires, equipment, trash),
3. Poor or broken lighting reducing visibility.



**Chemical hazards can often cause slips and falls, especially in the washing and dyeing sections of the factory.**

## **Ergonomic Hazards**

**4 common ergonomic problems include:**

1. Long hours of work, inadequate breaks;
2. Poor lighting, causing eye strain, headaches and fatigue;
3. Lack of ventilation or excessive heat, causing headaches or skin irritation;
4. Working positions or repetitive work causing undue bodily stress.



**Ergonomic hazards are determined by how your work is organised or how your work station is set up.**



**When you see a hazard, tell someone on the Safety Committee about it.**

## **Using the Safety Committee**

Your Safety Committee's basic job is to reduce workplace hazards.

**There are 3 steps to using the Safety Committee:**

1. Tell someone on the Safety Committee about the problem;
2. Let the Safety Committee investigate the problem. Help them understand why it is a problem;
3. Once they understand the problem, help the Committee find a solution that reduces the hazard.

## Using the RSC

Sometimes a safety problem cannot be fixed by the Safety Committee. If that is the case, you should contact the RSC office.



For Safety Complaints call:

**+880 176 996 9000**

The RSC will investigate all safety complaints that it receives, working with the Safety Committee and factory managers to find a solution to the problem.



**The RSC will inform all workers in the factory of how the safety concern was resolved.**

For Safety Complaints call:  
**+880 176 996 9000**



For general enquiries call:  
**+88 0176 6695900**  
**+88 02 41081863-6**

## **RMG SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL**

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