

# RMG SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL (RSC)

## MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2023



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*Delivering world-class sustainable workplace safety programmes*

## CONTACT US

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**We value your feedback on this document.**

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*Cover Photo:* An image of a “Safety Committee Training” at an RSC covered factory.

## RSC at a glance

The RMG Sustainability Council (RSC) is a safety monitoring body in the RMG sector of Bangladesh. It is a private initiative of the Bangladesh Industry, global brands, and global and local trade unions. The operations of Bangladesh Accord were transitioned to the RSC. Our vision is to ensure workplace safety, enabling sustainable business and developing the supply chain.

Our expertise lies in:

- Fire, Electrical, Structural and Boiler associated hazards identification in accordance with local & international standards.
- Advise remediation plans to mitigate safety risks.
- Communication & follow up on the identified issues and implement a firm warning procedure to ensure the production facilities do not fall behind on remediation.
- Ensuring enough training and capacity development of the safety committee members in the production facilities to identify and manage workplace safety risks.
- Ensure an independent complaints mechanism that ensures the anonymity of the complainant and follow up on their right to a safe workplace. Going forward we will also have a wing where environmental sustainability will be monitored and assessed.

## MONTHLY UPDATE ON INSPECTION PROGRAMME

### STATUS OF INSPECTION PROGRAMME (as of June 2023)

This section represents the total number of inspections the RSC has conducted. The RSC inspection programme consists of Structural, Electrical, Fire & Boiler safety inspections. The RSC carried out **11,219** inspections during the RSC period starting June 2020 till June 2023 (among a total of **57,051** inspections by the safety initiative since 2014).

- RSC engineers conducted **818 (Covered and Non-Covered Factory)** initial inspections during the RSC period among the total of **7,220** initial inspections.
- RSC engineers conducted **10,401** follow-ups and other safety inspections during the RSC period, among the **49,831** follow-ups and other safety inspections.

Following the initial inspections, the factory and the Brands are tasked with developing a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), which details time-bound remedial actions (based on the severity of the findings) for completion. Follow-up inspections are conducted to monitor the remediation and verify that corrective actions have been completed correctly. Other safety inspection includes post-incident inspection, OSH complaints initial inspection, OSH complaints verification inspection, unannounced OSH complaint inspections, and inspections based on Safety Committee Walk Through. Each factory is inspected on average approximately once every eight months.

For the **1,711 factories currently covered by RSC**, the following number of inspections have been carried out:

#### During the RSC period (from 1 June 2020 up to 30 June 2023)

- Initial inspections: **800 (at Covered Factories)**
- Follow-up inspections: **6,533 (30% structural inspections, 38% electrical inspections, 32% fire inspections)**

#### Total initial and follow-up inspections (since 2013 up to 30 June 2023)

- Initial inspections: **5,131 (at Covered Factories)**
- Follow-up inspections: **35,670 (23% Structural inspections, 39% electrical inspections, 38% fire inspections)**

# MONTHLY UPDATE ON SAFETY REMEDIATION

## SAFETY REMEDIATION PROGRESS (as of June 2023)

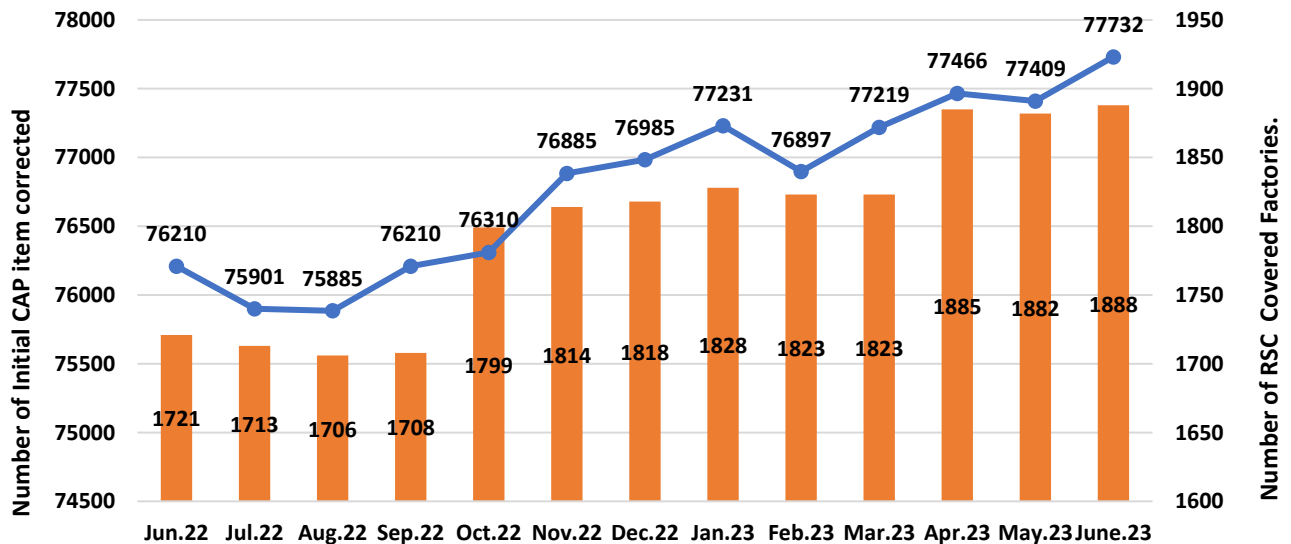
Progress & completion rates of safety remediation at RSC-covered factories:

- The Total number of factories covered by the RSC is **1,888**.
- Among these **1,711** factories have been inspected and **177 newly enlisted** factories are still to receive initial assessment inspection.
- **91.41%** remediation progress of initial findings, overall including structure, electrical and fire.
- **526** factories completed the remediation of initial findings.
- **>90%** remediation of initial findings at **1,329** factories (**803** factories if those that completed the initial remediation are excluded)
- **89.50%** of covered factories received their Fire Alarm and Detection System design approval as part of the remediation plan.
- **85.71%** of covered factories received their Fire Suppression System design approval as part of the remediation plan.
- **79.1%** of factories completed structural remediation based on an Engineering Assessment as part of the remediation plan.

## REMEDIATION PROGRESS OF SAFETY ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING INITIAL INSPECTIONS (as of June 2023)

The following graph corresponds to the status of the overall initial progress rate from June 2022 to June 2023. It is to be mentioned that the overall progress rate will fluctuate depending on the number of new factories, the number of factories being covered, the inspection outcomes, and updates received from factories.

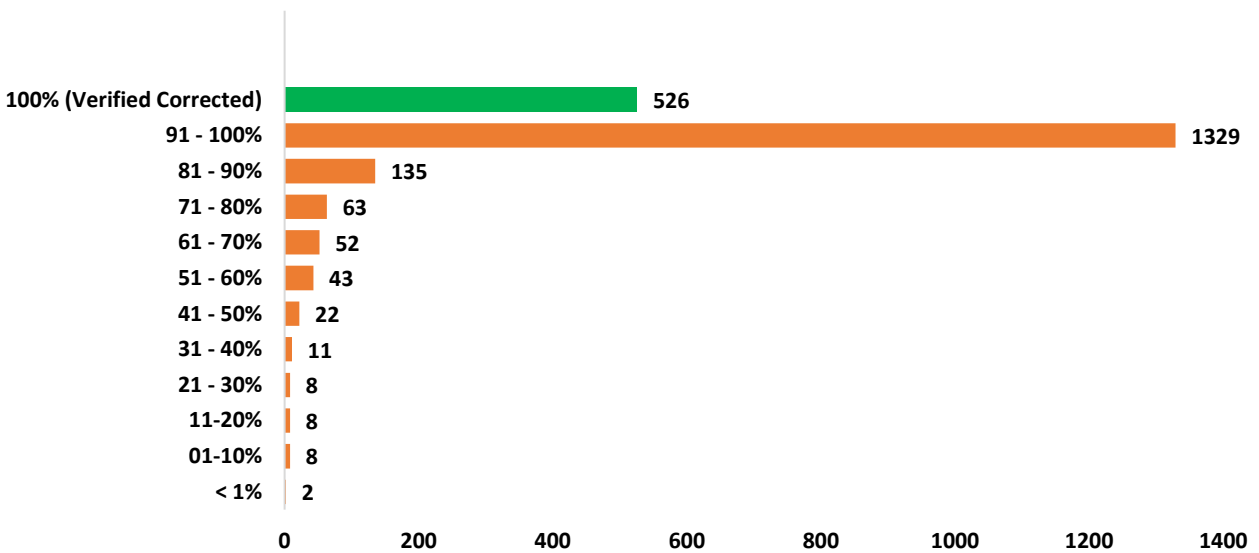
Initial Findings Progress Per Month ( From June 2022 to June 2023)



## STATUS OF INITIAL REMEDIATION AT RSC-COVERED FACTORIES (as of June 2023)

The following graph shows the status of the current remediation progress of initial findings in the RSC-covered factories (as of June 2023). Currently, the RSC is working with **1,888** factories. However, out of the total covered factories, **1,711** factories have been inspected during the reporting period. The rest of the factories (**177**) are new factories yet to be inspected. Among the **1,711** factories, a total of **526** have **completed 100%** remediation.

Current status of initial remediation at 1,711 covered factories (with an approved CAP)



The following charts below provide an overview of the status of **inspection findings** that are reported in the published Corrective Action Plans (CAPs).

**In progress:** This is the default status for an inspection finding. It means that remediation of the inspection finding is underway.

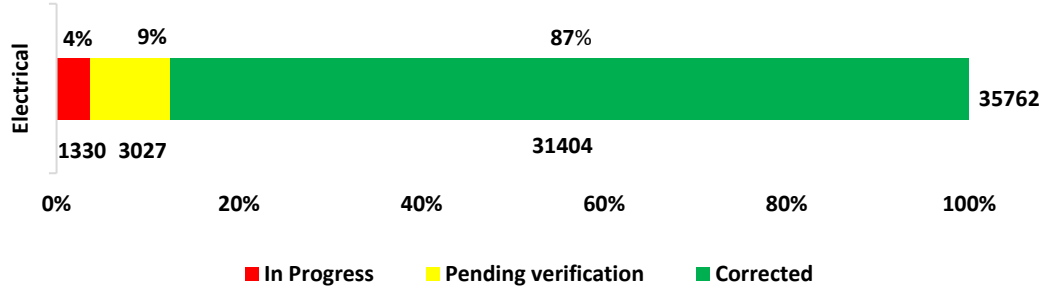
**Pending verification:** The “Pending Verification” status refers to a process where a factory reports to RSC that the finding(s) are corrected, but requires the RSC engineer’s verification through an inspection.

**Corrected:** The finding has been verified as corrected by the RSC engineers through their follow-up verification inspection and/or testing visits.

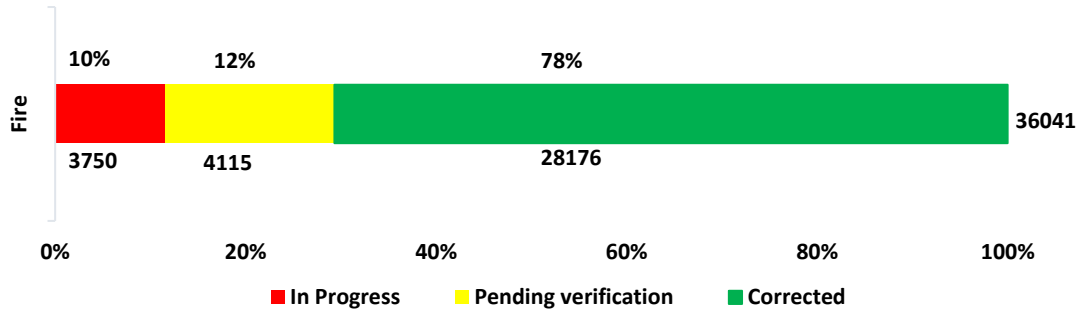
**PROGRESS RATE (%) BY DISCIPLINE**

**Initial findings progress charts by discipline (as of June 2023)**

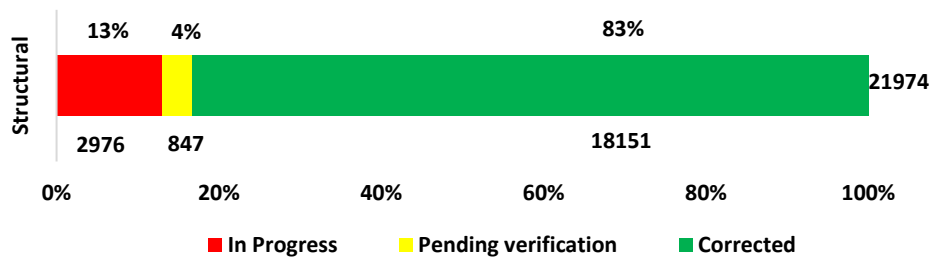
**Electrical Initial Findings Progress %**



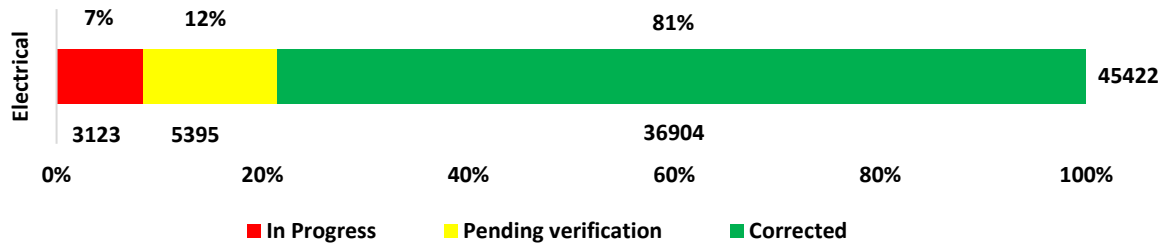
**Fire Initial Findings Progress %**



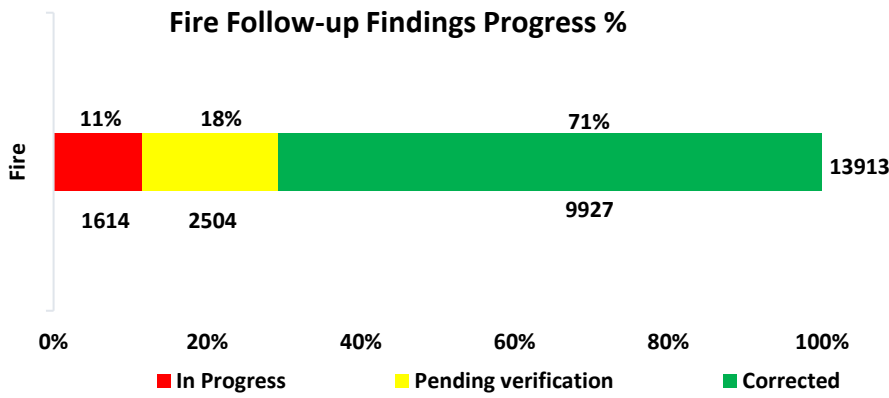
**Structural Initial Findings Progress %**



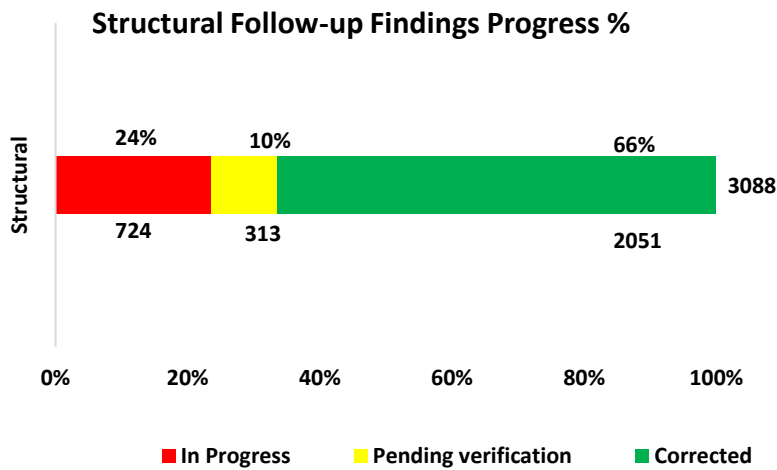
### Electrical Follow-up Findings Progress %



### Fire Follow-up Findings Progress %

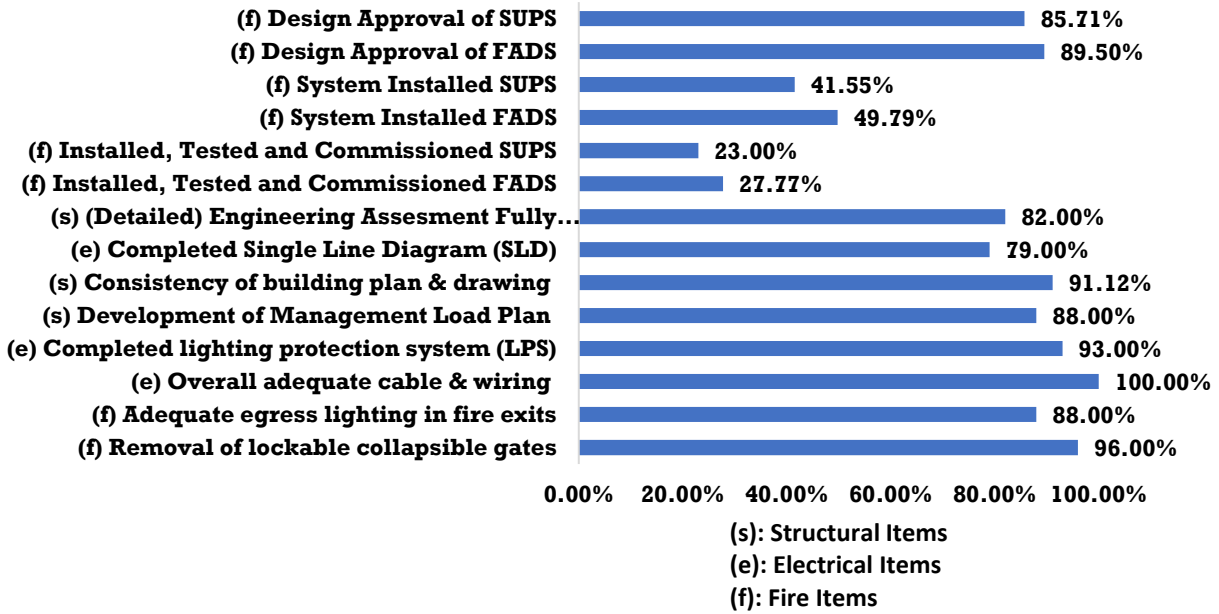


### Structural Follow-up Findings Progress %





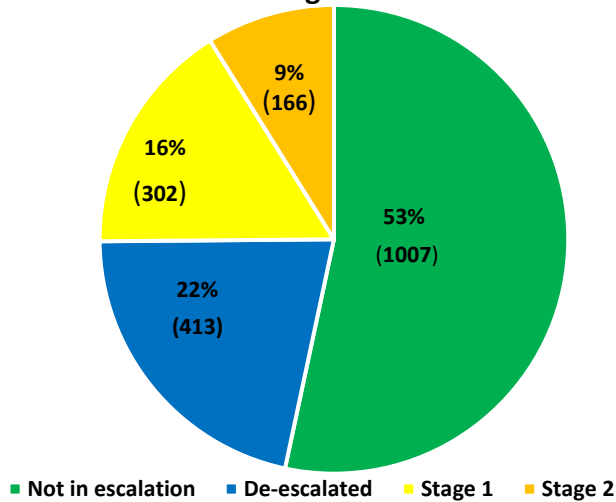
### Completion rate of common remediation items



### STATUS OF ESCALATION (as of June 2023)

As of June 2023, a total of **468** factories have been escalated to Stage 1(**302**) and Stage 2(**166**). There are **413** factories that were de-escalated after the escalation items were verified by the RSC. Out of the total RSC covered factories, **1007** have never gone to the escalation process. The percentage of different escalation stages of the RSC covered (**1888**) factories are shown in the pie chart below.

Different Escalation Stages of all RSC covered factories



# MONTHLY UPDATE ON WORKPLACE SAFETY PROGRAMME

## STATUS OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMPLAINTS MECHANISM (as of June 2023)

Workers at RSC-covered factories, and their representatives, have a right to raise complaints with the RSC Safety and Health Complaints Mechanism to remedy safety concerns that are not being effectively addressed at the factory level. Workers at covered factories, and their representatives, can raise concerns about safety and health risks safely, and if they so choose, confidentially, through the Safety and Health Complaints Mechanism. The Safety and Health Complaints Mechanism also protects complainants from reprisal, harassment, threat, or other retaliatory actions for exercising the right to file a complaint. This protection applies regardless of whether the complaint is determined to be OSH or non-OSH.

All complaints are assessed to determine if they fall under the occupational safety and health remit.

Occupational safety and health complaints are processed by RSC staff specialised in investigating and resolving complaints. RSC complaint specialists are responsible for verifying the delivery of the remedy of all complaints. Where complaints affect the safety of all workers/groups of workers, the RSC announces the findings and remediation requirements to all workers at the factory.

Complaints that fall outside of the remit of the Occupational Safety and Health Complaint Mechanism (i.e., non-OSH complaints) are forwarded to Factory Management, responsible brand, and labour signatories.

Complainants alleging issues at factories that are not covered by the RSC are provided with the contact information of the Government's Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE).

### Total Complaints Received (1 June 2020 – 30 June 2023)

Since June 2020, the RSC received **4,672** complaints out of which **1,217 (26%)** are Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) related complaints and **3,505 (75%)** are non-OSH related complaints.<sup>1</sup>

### Types of OSH Complaints

- Engineering (structural/fire/electrical/boiler safety): **78**
- COVID-19 related: **248**
- Reprisal for having filed a complaint: **29**

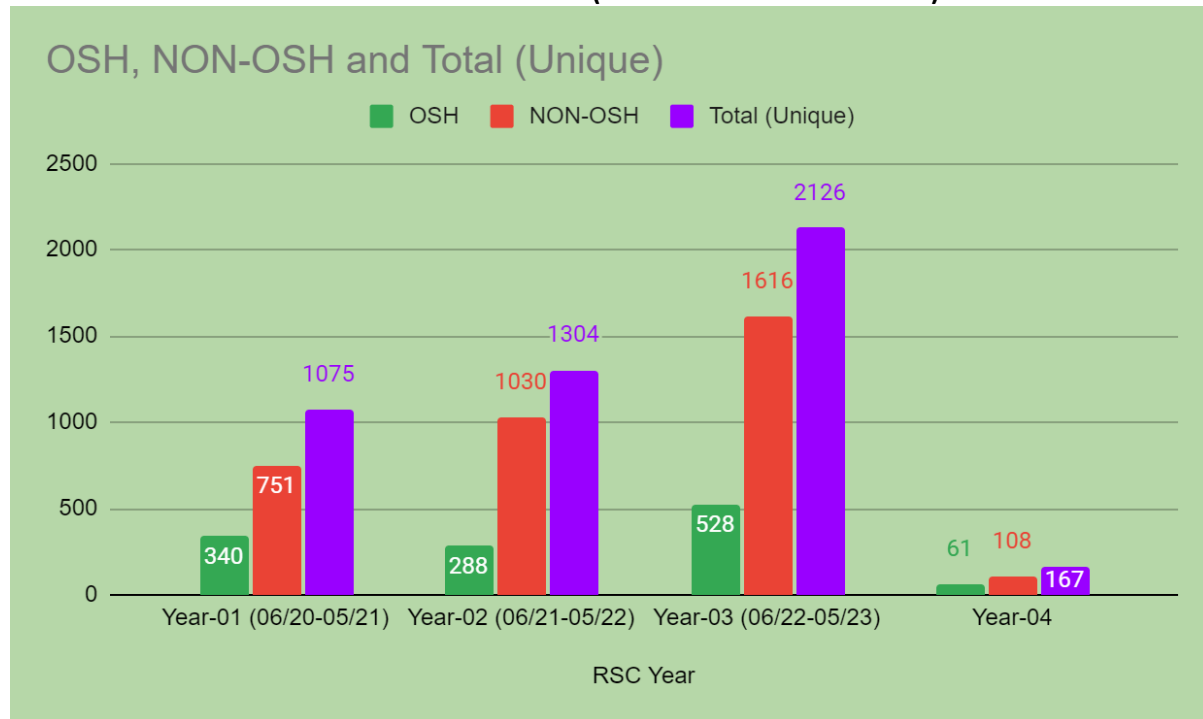
### No. of OSH Complaints Resolved

Since June 2020, the RSC has resolved **505** complaint

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<sup>1</sup> A complaint may contain both OSH and non-OSH allegations. Percentages therefore add up to more than 100%.

**RSC Period (1 June 2020 – 30 June 2023)**



**STATUS OF SAFETY COMMITTEE AND SAFETY TRAINING (SCST) PROGRAMME (as of June 2023)**

**Key functions of the Safety Committee and Safety Training (SCST) Programme**

**Facilitation of Safety Training**

The RSC Safety Committee and Safety Training (SCST) Programme currently consists of 8 training modules conducted through 8 sessions for the members of the factory Safety Committee. The training sessions address the Safety Committee’s role in identifying and remedying safety and health hazards, handling safety and health-related complaints, and improving communication and joint problem-solving skills. One of the important areas of the training programme is to educate workers and management on the rights and entitlements related to Freedom of Association in relation to protecting their own safety.

As part of the training programme, the Safety Committee and the RSC OSH Training Programme Specialist conduct WALK-THROUGH(WT) (a type of inspection) at the factory to identify actual or any potential safety and health hazards. The factory Safety Committee monitor and negotiate with management on the remediation of the safety issues identified during the WTs.

**3 All Employee Meetings**

Following a preliminary consultation (Initial Meeting) with the factory management, the RSC OSH Training department schedules “All Employee Meetings (AEM)” on the factory grounds, where all employees of the factory are invited to participate. Three such “All Employee Meetings” are held with all the workers

of the factory. Generally, the AEM-1 meeting is held before the commencement of the training program for the members of the Safety Committee, the AEM-2 meeting is at the end of the training-3 program, and the AEM-3 meeting is held after the completion of the full training cycle.

During All Employee Meetings at the factory premises, information related to the role of the safety committee, safe evacuation in case of emergency, and common health and safety hazards identification including sexual harassment and workplace violence are shared with all the workers and members of the management. The RSC developed pictorial IEC materials on a range of occupational safety and health hazards including a guideline on complaints reporting mechanisms. These materials are distributed during the All-Employee Meetings among the participants. Our readers can read the RSC information materials by clicking the links below:

[Booklet for workers I](#)

[Booklet for workers II](#)

[Booklet for workers III](#)

A factory receives a **Letter of Acknowledgement** (LoA) from RSC after participating all the activities designed under the Safety Committee and Safety Training (SCST) Programme.

### Ongoing Support

To ensure that the Safety Committees are meeting their obligations on factory level safety, the Committees are provided with additional support such as the facilitation of the regular meetings and other ad-hoc basis activities like walk-throughs, coordination with RSC inspection team and Safety Committee of the factory ahead of any inspection, collect first information report from the Safety Committee members and conduct investigation immediately after any accidents/incidents take place at any factory.

### RSC SCST Programme at-a-glance

SCST Programme Features	(As of June 2023)
Ongoing Safety Committee Training Sessions	<b>144</b>
Yet to commence the Safety Committee Training Sessions	<b>188</b>
SCST Sessions were conducted	<b>11,459</b>
Remote SCST sessions	<b>7,354</b>
On-field SCST sessions	<b>4,015</b>
Walk Through were conducted	<b>5,474</b>
Remote WALK-THROUGH sessions	<b>2,277</b>
On-field walk-through sessions	<b>3,197</b>
Factories received a Letter of Acknowledgement	<b>1,226</b>
No. of workers are informed about workplace safety through All Employee Meetings and Informational Sessions	<b>20,64,089</b>
No. of factories Completed Safety Training for the Safety Committee	<b>1,261</b>