



Press release

KiK extends Accord for Bangladesh

New imposition of the agreement important step to further improve the production conditions

Bönen, 29.6.2017 -The textil discount KiK has signed the new edition of the "Accord" fire protection and building agreement in Bangladesh. The Westphalian company is therefore one of the first signatories to the new agreement, which will enter into force on 31 May 2018. The aim of the "Bangladesh Accord on Building and Fire Safety" is to continue the measures to improve the protection of buildings and fire in the textile factories of the country after the collapse of Rana Plaza.

The signatories to the agreement have undertaken to report their supplier factories to the Accord and to have these factories examined by experts for building safety, fire safety and electrical safety. The shortcomings documented in these inspections are eliminated by the factory owners, in cooperation with the Accord, and the textile companies support these measures financially. Since May 2013 all factories notified to the Accord in 1655 have been inspected, 77% of the identified safety deficiencies have been remedied.

"A lot has been achieved in the last five years. But we are not yet on target. The security of textile factories in Bangladesh has improved thanks to the support of the textile companies. However, it is important for the safety of the employees to remain on the ball and to ensure that the outstanding deficiencies are eliminated," said Patrick Zahn, CEO of KiK.

Accord has proven its worth

The Accord agreement, which has been concluded in 2013, expires on a five-year term at the end of May 2018. Even then, KiK was one of the members of the first hour. As a second German company, KiK joined the Accord, a group of more than 200 textile companies from 20 nations, international and local trade unions and NGO representatives. "The coordination among the participants is often lengthy. Nevertheless, the accord has proven itself. It improves transparency and ensures that challenges in the entire textile industry are managed in a coordinated approach," says Ansgar Lohmann, Manager of KiK's Sustainability Division. "He also signalled to the factory owners that the implementation of sanitation measures is absolutely necessary in order to continue to receive orders from Western textile traders and to safeguard the jobs of the employees," Lohmann adds.

Strengthening labor rights and transparency in the textile chain

In addition to further improving the structural and electrical conditions, the next period will focus on strengthening social dialogue and freedom of association. According to the new Accord, further suppliers in the textile chain can also be included in the measures to improve building safety. The new agreement expires on 31 May 2021 and may be extended by a maximum of one year. Subsequently, responsibility for the maintenance of safe production conditions should be transferred to a bangladeshan supervisory authority.



KiK building safety program in Pakistan

The improvement of the production conditions is an important concern for KiK. As a member of the textile alliance and in addition to his commitment to the Accord, the company recently launched a building safety program for its supplier factories in Pakistan. Between February and May 2017 all KiK 35 supplier factories were examined for structural and electrical defects. These inspections were carried out by an American engineering company and paid by KiK. After the initial inspection, the factory owners have a year to eliminate the documented defects.

About KiK Textil und Non-Food GmbH:

KiK stands for "customer is king", the leitmotiv of the basic textile supplier since the company was founded in 1994. KiK Textil und Non-Food GmbH offers women, men, children and baby clothes in good quality at the most competitive price , In addition to clothing, the range also includes gift items, toys, beauty products, accessories and home textiles. With more than 25,000 employees and 3,400 branches in Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Poland and the Netherlands, the company generates net annual sales of EUR 1.81 billion. In the German textile trade, KiK ranks among the top ten and since 2013 has been offering its customers the opportunity to order online at www.kik.de.

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