

“Zeeman’s response”, 24 May 2021

Since 2013 Zeeman is member of the Bangladesh Accord. We would like to reaffirm our commitment continuing the progress made over the last eight years through the Accord and thus ensuring worker safety. Although we keep on striving for 100% completion together with our suppliers, the RSC and other local stakeholders mentioned that an initial findings progress rate of 96% was accomplished. (Accord average 92%).

The recently published report mentions a completed/verified percentage at Zeeman suppliers of 91% which is currently 92%. (Accord average 84%).

This 5% gap between the numbers is explained by the pandemic situation that caused lockdowns and travel restrictions which hampered the inspections. Due to these circumstances not all remediated issues could be verified by the RSC. In conclusion, 96% of the issues is resolved, 91% is both resolved and verified in inspections.

Zeeman is still fully committed to and supportive of the intentions and objectives of the current Accord agreement which ends 31st of May 2021. In case the outcome of the negotiations between the labour unions, NGOs, brands and textile industry would be a binding legal accord, Zeeman would definitely endorse this. Next to this we would support expansion of the Accord model to other production countries as we have witnessed the Accord’s success and effectiveness which allows all parties involved to continue improving worker safety in the industry.