



# LIFE AND BUILDING SAFETY

## Why they're good for your employees and your business

In recent years, tragic events at garment factories have highlighted the need to address worker and building safety in the apparel and footwear industry. Beyond mitigating risks, carrying out factory improvements can bring financial, competitive, and innovation benefits to your facility.

### A CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE

Taking responsibility for your workers increases their satisfaction, enthusiasm, and retention, which can secure your facility's differential advantages.

€2.20 return for every €1 spent on worker safety

Investing in occupational health and safety can directly reduce your factory's costs by preventing downtime and disruptions, increasing worker satisfaction, and creating a better corporate image.

### SHARED VALUE FOR EVERYBODY

A safe working environment raises your competitiveness – you increase productivity and savings and address the concerns of international buyers, giving you access to new markets.

€10.5 million savings through reduced injury

Reducing hazards can have impact beyond worker safety. After removing potential hazards from its facilities, an electricity firm was able to reduce its injury rate from 3.6 per 100 workers to 0.5, amounting to a savings of €10.5 million annually.

### AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR FACTORY'S FUTURE

Continually improving your building safety compliance ensures you remain innovative and attractive to your buyers in the future.

New innovations through compliance

Improving the safety of your facility is a key driver of innovation that keeps you competitive. While trying to reduce energy spending, a company ended up developing a new insulation technology to reduce heat loss through its walls.



## CASE STUDIES

A number of factories working with LABS signatory brands have already addressed these and other issues. See how they implemented improvements, from infrastructure changes to employee capacity building that creates a safe culture in the workplace.

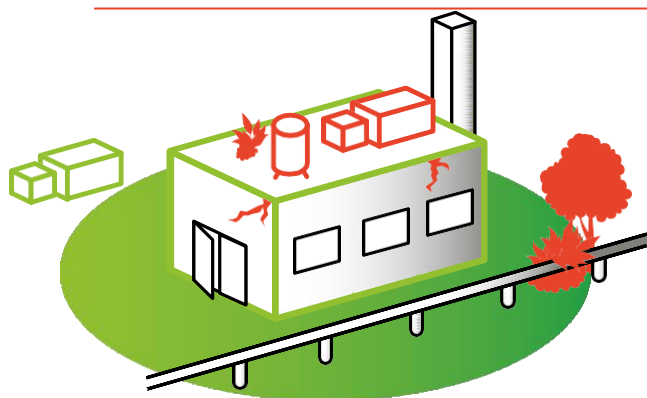
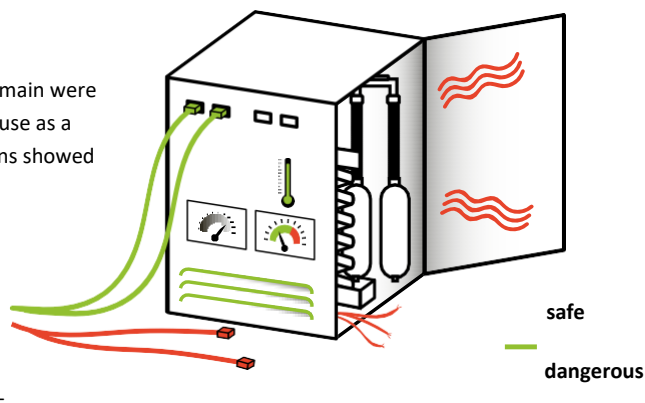
### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

One factory found that the electrical connections inside the stabilizer main were too hot at 110.6°C. An authorized third-party auditor identified the cause as a faulty connection. It was replaced and subsequent thermographic scans showed it to be within prescribed limits.

*"The audits have enlightened us to be more proactive and conscious towards building structural safety facts, electrical and fire safety measures enhancement."*

Shahi Exports Pvt Ltd – Unit – 35, India

EVEN LOW COST INTERVENTIONS CAN HELP AVOID FIRES AND DOWNTIME.



### STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

Another factory hired a contractor to fix cracks and exposed steel, after which a structural safety inspection was conducted. The inspection concluded trees had been planted atop the production building and various other buildings in the complex had water tanks on their roofs. The extra weight contributed to the strain on the building structure that caused the cracks.

*"One risk factor can cause heavy damage to a factory, even threaten the lives of employees. Most findings would have been overlooked before [the inspection]."*

Dong Guan DaTian Shoes Co., Ltd, Vietnam

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE: COMBAT THE CAUSES AND NOT JUST THE SYMPTOMS.

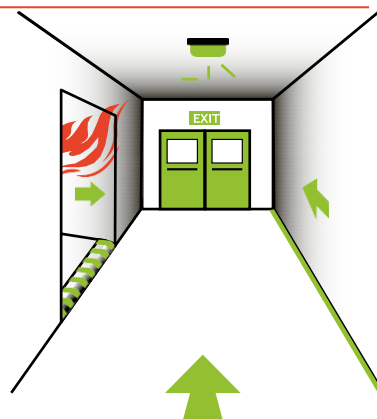
### FIRE SAFETY

After developing a dedicated training program for fire safety, a factory of 6,000 workers was able to significantly improve its evacuation time. Starting with more than 30 minutes prior to training, evacuation time has now been reduced to less than 10 minutes. The ultimate goal is under 3 minutes.

*"Some of the positive results we had from the Fire Safety Evacuation Program were that we were able to plan and deliver a dedicated fire safety training designed for our audience."*

Fulgent Sun Footwear Co., Ltd, Vietnam

BETTER FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMS IMPROVE WORKER SAFETY AND MITIGATE LEGAL RISKS.



Undergoing a third-party inspection can help you discover how to become more productive and promote safer working conditions for factory workers.

The LABS Initiative helps you prevent loss of production facilities and product. It harmonizes the approach to structural, fire, and electrical safety to avoid the burden of multiple private compliance standards. It provides access to expertise for facility improvement and creates cost-efficiencies by coordinating activities at the country-level.

For more information and details on how to participate, please email the LABS initiative at [info@labsinitiative.com](mailto:info@labsinitiative.com).