

NEWSLETTER

Quarterly | April 2023 | Issue 14



Dear Readers,

We hope you are keeping well and safe.

During the first quarter of 2023, we set the pace to strengthen the program and its reach. Globally, we completed over 600 safety trainings and 400 assessments. As an important milestone, LABS will expand into Indonesia this year and the groundwork for the launch is progressing steadily.

The LABS Standards & Methodology was revised in India to include the home textiles industry, thus providing access to additional factories. In March 2023, Good Practice sessions were conducted in India, Vietnam, and Cambodia for factories and other stakeholders. There were over 400 participants in these sessions with representatives from factories, brands, textile associations, and the respective government representatives.

LABS is also launching a chat platform to strengthen outreach to workers and provide an agency to report incidents.

We hope you enjoy these updates and look forward to any inputs you may have.

PROGRESS SO FAR

▶ **412**

Factories onboarded

India: 128

Vietnam: 213

Cambodia: 71

▶ **404**

Assessments conducted

India: 126

Vietnam: 210

Cambodia: 71

▶ **649**

Safety training conducted

India: 179

Vietnam: 413

Cambodia: 57

▶ **837,854**

Workers reached

India: 163,780

Vietnam: 505,312

Cambodia: 168,762

Assessments



Factories were assessed across India, Vietnam, and Cambodia, during the first quarter (Q1) of 2023.

	Assessments
India	01
Vietnam	03
Cambodia	11

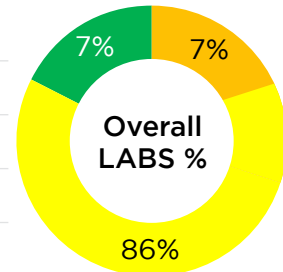
Common assessment findings



Structural Safety

- Uneven floor-load distribution on suspended floors
- Exposed reinforcements on roof slab
- Severe corrosion on steel frames
- Cracks on structural members (e.g., concrete beams and columns)
- Absence of documentation (e.g., structural diagrams, geo-technical reports, floor-load plans, and soil reports)

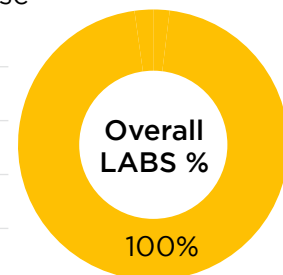
Assessment Ratings	India	Vietnam	Cambodia
Amber	0	0	1
Yellow	1	0	10
Green	0	1	0
Total	1	1	11



Fire Safety

- Rolling shutters on exit doors
- Fire-rated doors and fire-rated enclosures lacking
- Centralized fire-alarm system unavailable
- Lockable devices/mechanisms found on exit doors
- Overhead signages not existing on escape paths
- Handrails not provided on both sides of the staircase

Assessment Ratings	India	Vietnam	Cambodia
Red/Amber	0	0	0
Amber	1	3	11
Yellow	0	0	0
Total	1	3	11

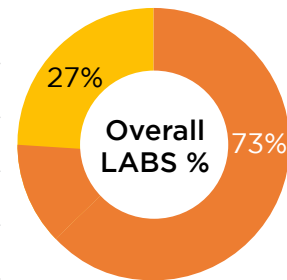




Electrical Safety

- Heavy lint and dust inside switchboards/distribution boards (DBs)
- Protective earthing (PE) to DBs, MS roof truss, transformer fencing, and battery bank racks not provided
- Lightning protection system not supplied
- Flammable coating inside distribution panels
- Numerous hotspots with temperatures between 70.2°C and 104.7°C

Assessment Ratings	India	Vietnam	Cambodia
Red/Amber	0	1	10
Amber	1	2	1
Yellow	0	0	0
Total	1	3	11



Remediations

Fire

India

Data below represents 85 factories where 227 follow-up visits were conducted

- **99%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **96%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on the evacuation pathways
- **97%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **89%** of the factories removed the locking mechanisms from exit doors

Vietnam

Data below represents 185 factories where 437 follow-up visits were conducted

- **100%** of the factories removed the temporary obstacles on the evacuation pathways
- **85%** of the factories provided additional emergency lighting
- **91%** of the factories added fire alarms
- **76%** of the factories installed extra fire detectors
- **89%** of the factories remediated issues related to exit doors

Cambodia

Data below represents 25 factories where 25 follow-up visits were conducted

- **100%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **100%** of the factories removed the temporary obstacles on the evacuation pathways
- **93%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **59%** of the factories removed the locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical

India

- 90% of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- 98% of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- 96% of the factories provided PE connections for electrical components

Vietnam

- 92% of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- 98% of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- 100% of the factories remediated issues regarding the Supplies to Life Safety Systems
- 86% of the factories provided PE connections

Cambodia

- 86% of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- 83% of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- 82% of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

Structural

India

- **78%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **79%** of the factories eliminated the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **82%** of the factories removed the dampness in walls

Vietnam

- **82%** of the factories remediated the missing/incomplete bracing in steel buildings
- **75%** of the factories repaired the visible distress in structural members (e.g., cracks on columns, beams, or slabs)
- **75%** of the factories provided the Allowable Loading Plans throughout the factory building

Cambodia

- **89%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **100%** of the factories eliminated the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **86%** of the factories removed the dampness in walls

“ During the process of joining LABS, I was able to assess the current level of safety, identify hazards, ensure safety for workers, and limit risks affecting the development of the factory. In addition, LABS has helped me improve my knowledge of structural safety, electrical safety, fire safety. From there, we can further improve our safety management system, better control hazards and risks, find the root cause to prevent future incidents.”

Dinh Vu Ngoc Tram, CSR Supervisor, Starite International Vietnam

Safety Training

59

Safety Training

sessions were conducted in Q1, 2023.

There were 59 Safety Trainings during the quarter with 1,270 participants representing factory management, the OHS committee, HR and maintenance departments, and workers from the production area.

1,270

people trained

	People trained	Training
India	254	09
Vietnam	685	34
Cambodia	331	16



“ After participating in LABS safety training in our factory on fire, electrical and structural safety, I have learnt and got to know my responsibilities to be safe not only in factory but also outside factory, where during rains my house walls used to get grounded and was getting shock[ed] whenever we touch the wall. So after attending the LABS safety training, got installed ELCB in my house and electric shock is no more a concern to me and my family. Thanks for the Gokaldas Management and LABS team for educating us to be safe. ”

Shwetha N C, Cutting Section Helper, Gokaldas Exports Limited Unit - 03

LABS Helpline

The LABS chat platform was developed and is currently active. LABS chat provides an option to the workers to report issues 24/7 via online chat, which is available in regional languages in all countries.



India: Three non-related LABS calls received (mainly HR)

Vietnam: There were 21 non-related LABS calls regarding HR issues and general enquiries

Cambodia: One non-related LABS general enquiry call



“ Through the assessment, the LABS safety standards were better understood to further improve the factory and providing training to workers, staff, supervisors, and managers will improve understanding of safety standards. Greatly assisted and provided workers and staff with extensive knowledge about safety and workplace hazards. The benefits I see are the cultivation of a positive health and safety culture where safety and well-being increase individual, team, and organizational resilience. Plan to maintain active safety measures at the facility, conduct appropriate monitoring and surveys, and train employees on LABS standards and obtain support from top management to continuously improve facility security.”

Darwin Widjaja, General Manager, Horizon Outdoor (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.

Key Outreach and Events

Good Practices webinars were conducted for factories in India, Vietnam, and Cambodia to obtain feedback from factories, share success stories and learnings, and discuss the next steps to complete the graduation process. Approximately 400 people participated in these sessions, organized at country levels

India

- A session on updating LABS Standards & Methodology to include the home textiles industry was conducted by QIMA and LABS for inspection firms

Vietnam

- **February 6:** LABS conducted a quarterly meeting with the VITAS, Better Work Vietnam, and Ministry of Construction in Vietnam, in February to discuss planned activities for 2023. Overall a positive feedback was received on the LABS Program and the participants committed support to collaborate on upcoming events and field-level activities.
- **March 23-24:** LABS participated in the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) sustainable days – **Vietnam Textfuture 2023 events**. The LABS team presented on “Building Safety within the Apparel and Footwear industries” to establish a channel to share good practices, learning, and technical viewpoints and promote partnerships for the sustainable development of Vietnam’s textile and garment industry

Cambodia

1. **February 1:** A meeting with H.E. KENG Somarith, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice, was conducted to address the non-compliance of factories’ safety standards and to ensure gender equality in the hiring/promotion practices within the factories
2. **February 6:** A meeting with Rajiv Pradhan, Country Director at Swisscontact (an NGO funded by the Swiss government) was held to discuss potential collaboration/funding of skills’ development for factory workers and management teams
3. **February 13:** Organized by EuroCham Cambodia’s Garment & Manufacturing committee, a meeting with Secretary of State H.E. Dr. TY Norin and Under-Secretary of State H.E. Victor Jona was held on renewable energy and preliminary talks of potentially adopting LABS Standard (electrical code) into policy
4. **February 20:** A joint sharing session with representatives of VF Corp. was conducted at the ILO-BFC office on program updates, challenges, remediation, and P1 issues. The next joint sharing session is tentatively scheduled for the end of April 2023, where BFC would present their findings and challenges. Another joint workshop with ILO-BFC, TAFTAC, and representatives from the Brands, factories, and relevant government ministries was tentatively scheduled for June.

Incidents in Apparel Sector

India

- **March 24: Noida, India**

A short circuit was blamed for a fire at a textile-printing factory in Sector 10. Ten workers narrowly escaped

Sources: <https://apparelresources.com/business-news/sustainability/fire-noidas-factory-narrow-escape-10-workers/>

Cambodia

- **March 6**

A garment-factory fire caused damage to buildings, materials, and inventory

Vietnam

- **February 19: Kien An**

A fire at a shoe factory damaged approximately 680m2 of the factory building. No loss of life was reported



Sources: <https://thanhphohaiphong.gov.vn/thong-tin-ve-vu-chay-xuong-san-xuat-de-giay-cong-ty-co-phan-kim-long-tai-phuong-dong-hoa-kien-an.html>

Annexures

Factory Details

India

Assessments

1. JAK Group Pvt., Ltd. - 729

Safety Trainings

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Gokaldas Exports Pvt., Ltd. - Unit 03 | 5. Pearl Global Industries Limited Kanchipuram |
| 2. Richa Global Exports Pvt., Ltd. - North | 6. Alpine Apparels |
| 3. Amicizia Creations | 7. Shahi Exports Pvt., Ltd. - Unit 36 |
| 4. Tritan Leather Works Pvt., Ltd. | 8. Shahi Exports Pvt., Ltd. - Unit 36 A |
| | 9. Shahi Exports Pvt., Ltd. - Unit 33 |

Vietnam

Assessments

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Garment 10 Joint Stock Company - Ha Noi | 2. SCAVI HUE Company |
| | 3. Peak Outdoor Co., Ltd. |

Safety Trainings

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Vinatex Bac Lieu Garment Factory | 12. Pouyuen Vietnam Co., Ltd. - D3 |
| 2. Winfone Vietnam Manufacturing Company Limited | 13. Tainan Enterprises (Vietnam) Co., Ltd. |
| 3. Viet Pan Pacific Thanh Hoa Co., Ltd. | 14. Esprinta (Vietnam) Co., Ltd. |
| 4. Vinh Thinh Trading General Joint Stock Company | 15. Jinquan Vietnam Travelling Goods Co., Ltd. |
| 5. TNG Investment and Trading JSC - Phu Binh 3 Garment Branch | 16. Tam Quan Garment JSC |
| 6. Oasis Garment Co., Ltd. (Vietnam) - 692 Factory | 17. YI Da Viet Nam Limited |
| 7. Hansoll Vina Co., Ltd. | 18. Song Hong 7: Factories 11,12,13,14 - Song Hong Garment JSC |
| 8. Kim Binh Garment Co., Ltd. | 19. Thai Binh Jinmao Crafts Limited Company |
| 9. Kwang Viet Garment Co., Ltd. | 20. Greentech Headgear Company Limited in Dong Nai - Branch 1 |
| 10. Son Ha Co., Ltd. - Thai Binh Branch | 21. Minh Anh - Do Luong Garment Joint Stock Company |
| 11. Sun World Garment Co., Ltd. | |

- | | |
|---|---|
| 22. Minh Anh Kim Lien Garment Joint Stock Company | 28. TANDE 5 |
| 23. A First Vina Co., Ltd. | 29. UNITEDTEX GARMENT (VIETNAM) CO LTD |
| 24. Dung Quat Garment Factory – Branch of Vinatex Da Nang Joint Stock Company | 30. Duc Thanh 2 Garment Import Export Co., Ltd. |
| 25. Halotexco Garment Joint Stock Company | 31. Soto Co., Ltd. |
| 26. Din Sen Vietnam Enterprise Co., Ltd. – Long An | 32. Yi Feng Footwear Joint Venture Co., Ltd. |
| 27. Maxturn Apparel Company Limited | 33. HANA KOVI INC |
| | 34. Precious Garments (Vietnam) Co., Ltd. |

Cambodia

Assessments

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. In Fong (Cambodia) Garment Co., Ltd. | 6. Son Keng Garment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. |
| 2. Hoplok (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. | 7. Walt Technology (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. |
| 3. Jade Sun Garment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. | 8. Glory Knitwear Ltd. |
| 4. Splendor Industry Co., Ltd. | 9. Wing Star Shoes Co., Ltd. |
| 5. Skyworth Fashion (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. | 10. Di Seta (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. |
| | 11. Shining (Cambodia) Belt & Bag Co., Ltd. |

Safety Trainings

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Fairdon (Cambodia) Limited | 9. Goldfame Star Enterprises (Cambodia) Limited |
| 2. Sees Global Cambodia Co., Ltd. | 10. Vicmark Fashions (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. |
| 3. Juhui Footwear Co., Ltd. (renamed Ju Wang Footwear) | 11. Sportex Industry Co., Ltd. |
| 4. Wilson Leather (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. | 12. Hoplok (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. |
| 5. Hung Hsing Garment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. | 13. Jie Wei (Cambodia) Garment Factory Ltd. |
| 6. Kaichi (Cambodia) Ware Ltd. | 14. Hathor International (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. |
| 7. Top Centre Manufacturing Ltd. | 15. Winning Dragon Leatherware (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. |
| 8. Starlight Apparel Manufacturing Co., Ltd. | 16. 8 Star Sportswear Ltd. |

QA Assessments

1. Fairdon (Cambodia) Limited



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