

NEWSLETTER

Quarterly | October 2024 | Issue 20



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Life and Building Safety (LABS) Initiative's Quarterly Newsletter! As we wrap up another productive quarter, we are proud to share the progress, insights, and milestones achieved across our programs in ensuring safer working environments in the textile, apparel and footwear sectors.

In this edition, we highlight key developments from July to September 2024, including updates on safety assessments and collaborative engagements with factories and brands. Additionally, we explore how our efforts are driving positive change on the ground, supporting factories, workers, and the wider stakeholder group in building a culture of safety and preparedness.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to fostering safer workplaces.

PROGRESS SO FAR

► **582**

Factories onboarded

India: **162**

Vietnam: **253**

Cambodia: **112**

Indonesia: **55**

► **569**

Assessments conducted

India: **162**

Vietnam: **249**

Cambodia: **103**

Indonesia: **55**

► **1,104**

Safety training conducted

India: **290**

Vietnam: **593**

Cambodia: **157**

Indonesia: **64**

► **1,154,778**

Workers reached

India: **212,579**

Vietnam: **548,252**

Cambodia: **230,878**

Indonesia: **163,069**

144 Factories graduated

India: **35** | Vietnam: **108**
Cambodia: **01**

Improving field level impact

Assessments



Factories were assessed across India, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia during the 3rd quarter (Q3) of 2024.

	Assessments	QA Assessments	Total
India	3	2	5
Vietnam	13	1	13
Cambodia	12	1	13
Indonesia	6	2	8

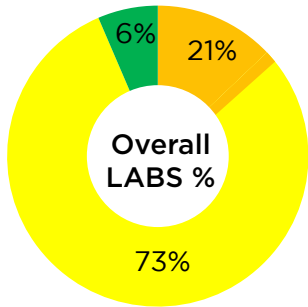
Common assessment findings



Structural Safety

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

Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	0	0	0	0
Amber	0	1	3	3
Yellow	3	11	9	2
Green	0	1	0	1
Total	3	13	12	6



“ The LABS Initiative has given us a reliable platform to report safety concerns in the workplace. Through the Helpline, we can raise issues anonymously, and it’s reassuring to know that someone is listening. The response is timely, and the follow-ups make us feel like our safety is genuinely a priority. We’ve noticed changes after reporting, and it feels empowering to be part of a system that values our well-being and creates a safer working environment for all of us.”

Rima Efendi – Welding Department – PT Yongjin Javasuka Garment Factory 2

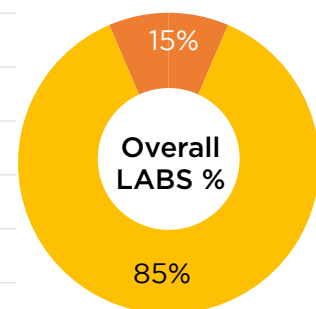




Fire Safety

- Rolling shutters on exit doors
- Insufficient emergency lights on escape paths
- Fire-rated doors and fire-rated enclosures lacking
- Overhead signages missing on escape paths
- Centralized fire-alarm system unavailable

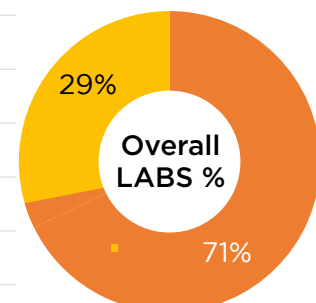
Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	0	0	1	4
Amber	3	12	12	2
Yellow	0	0	0	0
Green	0	0	0	0
Total	3	12	13	6



Electrical Safety

- Flammable coating inside distribution panels
- Heavy lint and dust inside switchboards/distribution boards
- Earthing to distribution boards, MS roof truss, transformer fencing, and battery bank racks not provided
- Lighting protection system not supplied
- Numerous hotspots with high temperatures ranging from 73°C to 120°C

Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	3	9	11	1
Amber	0	4	1	5
Yellow	0	0	0	0
Green	0	0	0	0
Total	3	13	12	6



Remediations

India

Data comprises 108 factories where 424 follow-up visits were conducted.

Fire Safety:

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

Electrical Safety:

- **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 earthing connections for electrical components.

Structural Safety:

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

Vietnam

Data comprises 203 factories where 790 follow-up visits were conducted.

Fire Safety:

- **96%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **100%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **90%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **95%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical Safety:

- **100%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **99%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **93%** of the factories provided earthing connections for electrical components

Structural Safety:

- 86% of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **87%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **82%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

Cambodia

Data comprises 64 factories where 216 follow-up visits were conducted

Fire Safety:

- **97%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **100%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **92%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **95%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical Safety:

- **93%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **91%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **92%** of the factories provided earthing connections for electrical components

Structural Safety:

- **94%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **98%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **96%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

Indonesia

Data comprises 28 factories where 100 follow-up visits were conducted

Fire Safety:

- **66%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **88%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **76%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **23%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

Electrical Safety:

- **58%** 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
- **17%** of the factories provided earthing connections for electrical components

Structural Safety:

- **45%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **47%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures

Safety Training

104

Safety Training
sessions were
conducted in Q3, 2024.

2,657

People Trained

There were 104 Safety Trainings during Q3 with 2,657 representatives from factory management, the OHS Committee, HR and maintenance departments, and workers from the production area.

	Training	People trained
India	15	455
Vietnam	42	1,029
Cambodia	27	659
Indonesia	20	514



Quality Assurance Measures & Updates

- Quality assurance visits were conducted across all countries of operations in Q3. Subsequently, quality assurance plans have been developed and discussed with the teams in each country to implement necessary corrective measures, with a focus on remediation uptake, follow-up visit process, and reporting.
- Mid-year performance review conducted for Associated Firms on criteria such as assessment skills, and reporting quality. Identified areas for improvement were promptly addressed with the firms, and strategies were implemented to refine the assessment process, reporting practices and overall timelines for CAP sign-off and design approvals process.



Reporting Platform Updates

LABS has a toll-free Helpline (in Vietnam, India, and Cambodia) and a LABS Chat platform (in Vietnam, India, Cambodia, and Indonesia) to enable workers to raise their concerns of unsafe working conditions.

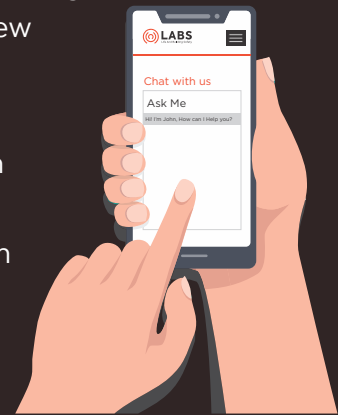
LABS Reported Cases reported this quarter

- **Vietnam:** one reported case related to a sewing-machine malfunction that remained unresolved for a month

The case was shared with the factory. The maintenance team inspected all sewing machines and repaired those with issues. The factory stated the underlying cause is the difficulty to control older sewing machines and they will be repaired or replaced with new machines. The factory plans to increase inspections to prevent similar problems in the future.

- **Indonesia:** one reported case involved an evacuation route blocked by goods

The case was reported to the factory and a LABS team member visited the site. The factory shared their remediation action and assured LABS they would improve their monitoring process. The case was resolved.



Non-LABS Reported Cases

- **India:** one case concerned an HR manager's behavior
- **Vietnam:** one case referred to the use of excessive bleach, which caused workers' discomfort
- **Cambodia:** one case related to privacy violations and maternity-leave policies
- **Indonesia:** one case was the inadequate clinic facilities and unavailable medicines
- **Indonesia:** one case pertained to inadequate cooling in the OCM work area.

“ Since the factory joined the LABS Program, the factory has performed better in terms of occupational safety and health and fire-protection system safety. Regularly updated information improve [and] maintain the fire-protection system and the points of attention that LABS has instructed. Always train employees to improve according to LABS standards to not only avoid risks to the factory but also ensure employee safety. ”



Mr. Khanh – Factory Office Manager – Seshin VN2 Factory

Key Outreach and Events

India

Safety Management Systems awareness training

Training on effective safety management system implementation was given to Gokaldas Export Ltd factories. A total of 45 participants, including safety officers and maintenance team members from its 20 factories (LABS and Non-LABS), attended the training.



Vietnam

International Footwear Conference

July 8, 2024

The LABS team in Vietnam participated in the 41st International Footwear Conference, hosted by the Vietnam Leather, Footwear and Handbag Association (LEFASO) and the Confederation of International Footwear Associations (CIFA). The event emphasized sustainability, innovation, and collaboration for the industry's future. Participants included representatives from various government organizations, international organizations, associations, and LEFASO members.



Annual Safety Seminar hosted by the Ministry of Construction

August 23, 2024

The LABS team in Vietnam participated in the Annual Safety Seminar hosted by the Ministry of Construction. The seminar, with over 150 participants, focused on updates in the National Code for Fire Safety in buildings. During the session, the LABS team shared best practices to further promote safety in the apparel and footwear industry.

Cambodia

LABS Safety Management System training

August 1, 2024 and August 21, 2024

A training session for LABS Safety Management System was conducted in English for 71 participants with representatives from over 60 factories and brand team members. Additionally, five non-LABS factories joined the session. The second, refresher training was conducted in Khmer with over 50 participants from 40 factories.

Indonesia

Best Practice session

August 9, 2024

This session aimed to ensure that factory teams understood the graduation criteria, proper remediation practices in line with LABS standards, the significance of a Safety Management System (SMS), and the implementation of SMS within their facilities. The best practice session had participants from 20 factories in Indonesia.

Design Process workshop

September 24, 2024

The workshop was conducted for member factories to explain the requirements of the design and drawings' approval process and to share the key details expected to be incorporated in various designs pertaining to fire, electrical, and structural-safety issues (including fire-rated doors, lighting protection systems, single-line diagrams, etc.). Overall, 78 factory representatives attended this workshop.



Incidents in Apparel Sector

Vietnam

- **August 7, 2024**

A fire incident was reported at the Shingmark Vina Factory.



Source: <https://vnexpress.net/chay-lon-cong-ty-san-xuat-do-go-hon-13-000-m2-o-dong-nai-4778931.html>

- **September 6, 2024**

A fire incident was reported at the Victory Sports Technology CO LTD factory.



Source: <https://vnexpress.net/lua-thieu-rui-500-xe-may-cua-cong-nhan-4789969.html?gidzl=UjTfFm9vImXwosey16Av1txCP30SDBS5OPndCqXZu00qpZ1cJMRXKcUP-PZ18PBO0Di4pDZXcdEG317Eu10>

Cambodia

- **July 31, 2024:**

A roof collapsed in a new building construction for the Ventura Leatherware Manufactory CO LTD factory located in Samraong Tong District, Kampong Speu Province. No injuries or deaths were reported.

- **August 9, 2024**

A fire erupted in the early morning at Kwan Tong Factory inside the scrap-cardboard, waste-storage facility. The factory is located in Choam Chao, Por Sen Chey District, Phnom Penh.

Indonesia

- July 25, 2024:**
PT Avia Avian Tbk (AVIA) suffered a severe fire at one of its solvent raw-material warehouses. The blaze took place at the Avian Brands factory situated on Jalan Raya Buduran, Sidoarjo. There were neither casualties nor ongoing operations during the incident.
- July 25, 2024:**
A fire engulfed a plastic-pellet processing factory in Buran Village, Tasikmadu District, Karanganyar Regency. The cause of the blaze was attributed to an explosion in the electrical panel. The inferno destroyed two buildings, production equipment, and plastic raw materials estimated at IDR 10 billion. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.
- August 1, 2024:**
A fire broke out at a textile factory located on Jalan Raya Dayeuhkolot, Pasawahan Village, Dayeuhkolot District, Bandung Regency.
- September 26, 2024:**
A fire at the Fajar Paper Factory located in Kampung Gardu Sawah, Kalijaya, West Cikarang, Bekasi Regency resulted in neither fatalities nor injuries.

Annexures

Factory Details

India

Assessments		
1. Parameshwari Exports PVT LTD		
2. Shahi Exports PVT LTD – Unit 26	3. Shahi Exports PVT LTD – IP2	

Safety Trainings	
1. Triangle Apparels – Unit VI	9. JVS Export
2. Chelsea Mills LLP – Gurugram	10. Palm Fibre India PVT LTD
3. Penguin Apparels PVT LTD – Unit 07	11. Cradle Clothing
4. Global Leathers	12. Jay Jay Mills India PVT LTD – SSM Unit
5. Indus Craft	13. Indian Designs Exports PVT LTD – Unit 04
6. Carnival Clothing Company	14. Devgiri Exports PVT LTD
7. White House	15. Pearl Global Industries LTD – Unit 274
8. Venkateshwara Clothing Company	

QA Assessments

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. International Clothing Company | 2. Pearl Global Industries LTD – Unit 274 |
|-----------------------------------|---|

Re-Assessments

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Global Garments – III | 3. Pearl Global Industries LTD – Unit 274 |
| 2. International Clothing Company | |

Vietnam

Assessments

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Viet Hao High Quality Garment Company Limited – 2064001 | 8. Branch of Puku Vietnam Company Limited |
| 2. Hoa Sen Phu Tho Garment Co Ltd | 9. Grand Legend Vina Company Limited |
| 3. Itas Mars Intimates Fashion Co Ltd -- Site 2 | 10. Branch of Binh Thuan Nha Be Garment Jsc – Tuy Phong Garment Factory |
| 4. Haianhtex Joint Stock Company – Factory 2 | 11. Chi Dat Garment Co Ltd |
| 5. Thien An Phat Textile Garment Investment Jsc – Factory 1 | 12. Santerlon Travel Goods Limited Company |
| 6. Son Ha Hue Limited Company | 13. Freetrend Industrial (Vietnam) Co Ltd – BBD |
| 7. Phong Phu-Da Nang Export Garment Factory II | |

Safety Trainings

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Din Sen Vietnam Enterprise Co Ltd – Long An | 11. Ever Great International Company Limited |
| 2. Pou Li Vietnam Co Ltd | 12. Grand Legend Vina Company Limited |
| 3. Eversun Footwear Co Ltd | 13. Hoai Nhon Garment Joint Stock Company |
| 4. Winga Vietnam Co Ltd | 14. Thuan Phuong Embroideries Garments Company Limited |
| 5. Leading Star Vietnam Garment Joint Stock Company | 15. Thien An Phat Textile Garment Investment Jsc – Factory 1 |
| 6. Thien Son Ha Nam Co Ltd | 16. Hoai Son Garment Limited Company |
| 7. Jasan Textile & Dyeing (Vietnam) Co Ltd | 17. Kim Binh Garment Co Ltd |
| 8. Eagle Nice Vietnam Co Ltd | 18. Itas Mars Intimates Fashion Co Ltd – Site 2 |
| 9. Mido Vina Co Ltd | |
| 10. Haianhtex Joint Stock Company – Factory 2 | |

- | | |
|---|---|
| 19. Hoa Tho Textile Garment Joint Stock Corporation | 31. Thuan Phuong Long An Ltd |
| 20. Branch Of Puku Vietnam Company Limited | 32. Hung Long Garment And Service Joint Stock Company |
| 21. Regina Miracle International (Vietnam) Co Ltd – Factory C | 33. Phong Phu Long An Export Garment Factory |
| 22. Phong Phu-Da Nang Export Garment Factory li | 34. Seshin Vietnam Co Ltd |
| 23. Tien Hung Joint Stock Company | 35. Ny Hoa Viet Co Ltd |
| 24. Emperor (Vietnam) Co Ltd | 36. South Asia Garments Limited |
| 25. Vina Kyung Seung Trading Co Ltd | 37. Hoa Sen Phu Tho Garment Co Ltd |
| 26. Chi Dat Garment Co Ltd | 38. Gg Hai Duong Co Ltd |
| 27. Freetrend Industrial (Vietnam) Co Ltd | 39. Halotexco Garment Joint Stock Company |
| 28. Sung Hwa Vina Co Ltd | 40. Tam Quan Garment Joint Stock Company |
| 29. Etop (Vietnam) Co Ltd | 41. Viet Hao High Quality Garment Company Limited |
| 30. Namyang Delta Co Ltd | 42. Sangwoo Vietnam Co Ltd |

QA Assessments

1. Thien Son Ha Nam Company Limited

Cambodia

Assessments

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Indochine Apparel (Cambodia) LTD | 8. Great New Talent (GNT) Factory (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| 2. In Kyung (Cambodia) CO LTD | 9. Ealytex (Cambodia) Garment CO LTD |
| 3. GG Fashion (Cambodia) CO LTD | 10. Outdoor Gear (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| 4. Champtex (Cambodia) CO LTD | 11. Liefeng Outdoors (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| 5. CG Glory (Cambodia) Manufacturing Company Limited | 12. Yong De Wei Garment PTY LTD |
| 6. Kai Neng Leather Products (Cambodia) CO LTD | |
| 7. Orient International Enterprise (Cambodia) Garment CO LTD | |

Safety Trainings

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. JH Garment (Cambodia) CO LTD | 13. Starlight Apparel Manufacturing CO LTD |
| 2. Hathor International (Cambodia) CO LTD | 14. T & K Garment Industry CO LTD |
| 3. 8 Star Sportswear LTD | 15. Ju Wang Footwear CO LTD |
| 4. Skyworth Fashion (Cambodia) CO LTD | 16. Yakjin (Cambodia) Inc. |
| 5. Shining (Cambodia) Belt & Bag CO LTD | 17. YTC Corporation |
| 6. Eclat Textile (Cambodia) CO LTD | 18. Splendor Industry CO LTD |
| 7. HANTON LUGGAGE (CAMBODIA) CO LTD | 19. New Wide Apparel CO LTD |
| 8. Lin Wen Chih Sunbow Enterprises CO LTD | 20. CPCG International CO LTD |
| 9. Airsun Leather Goods (Cambodia) CO LTD | 21. Soho Sheng He (Cambodia) Garment CO LTD |
| 10. CB Kingtop Fashion Garment CO LTD | 22. GG Fashion (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| 11. Foot Forward (Cambodia) Socks CO LTD | 23. Indonchine Apparel (Cambodia) LTD |
| 12. Champdex (Cambodia) CO LTD | 24. Di Seta (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| | 25. Kai Neng Leather Products (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| | 26. Outdoor Gear (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| | 27. Orient International Enterprise (Cambodia) Garment CO LTD |

QA Assessments

1. In Kyung (Cambodia) Co Ltd

Re-Assessments

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Walt Technology (Cambodia) CO LTD | 2. AW Cashmere (Cambodia) CO LTD |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

CAP Closure

1. Starite (Cambodia) CO LTD

Graduation Verification Visit

1. Splendor Industry CO LTD

Indonesia

Assessments

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. PT Nirwana Alabare Garment | 4. PT Hop Lun Indonesia |
| 2. PT Shinsung Grand Indonesia | 5. PT BOMIN PERMATA ABADI |
| 3. PT Liebra Permana – Semarang | 6. PT Prima Sejati Sejahtera |

Safety Trainings

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. PT Gunung Salak Sukabumi | 11. PT Formosa Bag Indonesia |
| 2. PT C SITE TEXPIA | 12. PT Nirwana Alabare Garment |
| 3. PT GUNUNG ABADI | 13. PT Greentex Indonesia – Utama II |
| 4. PT TIGA KYUNG SEUNG GARMEN | 14. PT Pungkook Indonesia One |
| 5. PT Sunwoo Garment Indonesia | 15. PT YAKJIN JAYA INDONESIA – 2 |
| 6. PT Uwu Jump Indonesia | 16. PT Daehan Global – Sukabumi |
| 7. PT Solve It | 17. PT Jmtech Busana Global |
| 8. PT Yakjin Jaya Indonesia – 1 | 18. PT Winners International |
| 9. PT Yongjin Javasuka Garment
Factory 2 | 19. PT Sejin Global Indonesia |
| 10. PT Daehan Global – Brebes | 20. PT Muara Tunggal |

QA Assessments

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. PT Nirwana Alabare Garment | 2. PT Liebra Permana |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|



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