Commitment to Electrical, Building and Fire Safety

May 2023

At Levi Strauss &Co. (LS&Co.) we believe that workers who make our products should work in a safe and healthy environment and be treated with dignity and respect. We have therefore long been invested in strengthening safety policies across our supply chain. In 1991, we were the first multinational company to introduce a comprehensive Supplier Code of Conduct which prioritized worker safety, including fire safety. Over the past 30 years we have continued to put our resources behind efforts that will make the biggest difference for the workers in our supply chain, adapting our policies and practices as needed.

In Bangladesh, we have established a record of worker safety practices, including the establishment of a comprehensive program for building, electrical and fire safety that has served as the model for our international programs. In 2009, for example, we enhanced our policies by banning sourcing from suppliers operating in multi-owner buildings, where safety standards are difficult to enforce. In 2010, we partnered within the industry to pioneer a sandblasting ban within all product lines and across all brands. In 2014, we began requiring all our suppliers in Bangladesh to undergo third-party electrical safety and building integrity assessments as a pre-condition of doing business with us based on industry-leading standards and local-country laws.

Following a risk-based approach, we began a multi-year, ongoing process to conduct prioritized third-party assessments with direct suppliers operating in Cambodia and Pakistan, with processes in place to take corrective action wherever deemed necessary. Through established worker-management Health and Safety Committees, workers representing departments throughout the factories are trained on essential workplace safety standards and protocols and share grievances with management. In 2022, we expanded our third-party grievance reporting hotline to all factories across Bangladesh and Pakistan, with plans to finalize the rollout to all factories in Cambodia in 2023.

In 2023, we joined Nirapon, an industry-led nonprofit organization that collaborates with brands, retailers, manufacturers and NGOs to create and sustain a culture of workplace safety in Bangladesh factories, to build on our existing programs. Together with Nirapon’s more than 55 members, we will collaborate to cultivate a safe working environment for Bangladesh factories, workers, managers and owners through the organization’s comprehensive safety support services. Nirapon’s services include on-site safety support visits facilitated by ELEVATE every 18 months, a 90-day safety workbook and reporting process, worker and manager trainings, worker safety committees, and Amader Kotha helpline services.

You can read more about our worker safety efforts in our most recent Sustainability Report.