



# Monthly Report

November 2024

RMG Sustainability Council (RSC)

*Empowering all our customers with a comprehensive safety and compliance system driven by a customer-centric and solution-oriented approach, remaining relevant in an ever-evolving landscape through continuous improvement, transparency, and integrity.*

## CONTACT US

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**We value your feedback on this document.**

**Email:** [contact@rsc-bd.org](mailto:contact@rsc-bd.org)

**Phone:** +88 02 226603540-3

**Web:** [www.rsc-bd.org](http://www.rsc-bd.org)

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rmg-sustainability-council/>

**Our Office Address:**

Level-5, Shanta Forum East Tower, 187, 188/B, Bir Uttam Shawkat Sarak, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh.

## RSC in brief

The RMG Sustainability Council (RSC) is a safety monitoring body in the RMG sector of Bangladesh. It is a private initiative of the Bangladesh Industry, global brands, and global and local trade unions. The operations of the Bangladesh Accord were transitioned to the RSC. Our vision is to empower all our customers with a comprehensive safety and compliance system driven by a customer-centric and solution-oriented approach, remaining relevant in an ever-evolving landscape through continuous improvement, transparency, and integrity.

Our expertise lies in:

- Fire, Electrical, Structural, and Boiler associated hazards identification by local & international standards.
- Advise remediation plans to mitigate safety risks.
- Communication & follow-up on the identified issues and implement a firm warning procedure to ensure the production facilities do not fall behind on remediation.
- Ensuring enough training and capacity development of the safety committee members in the production facilities to identify and manage workplace safety risks.
- Ensure an independent complaints mechanism that ensures the anonymity of the complainant and follows up on their right to a safe workplace. Going forward we will also have a wing where environmental sustainability will be monitored and assessed.

## MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE INSPECTION PROGRAMME

### STATUS OF INSPECTION PROGRAMME (As of November 2024)

The RSC inspection programme consists of Structural, Electrical, Fire, and Boiler safety inspections. This section of the report represents the total number of inspections conducted by RSC since its inception<sup>1</sup>. The RSC carried out **19,851** inspections from June 2020 to November 2024 (among a total of **65,678** inspections by the safety initiative since 2014).

- RSC engineers conducted **1,865 (covered and non-covered factory)** initial inspections in the RSC period among the total of **8,261** initial inspections.
- RSC engineers conducted **17,986** follow-ups and other safety inspections in the RSC period, among the **57,417** follow-ups and other safety inspections.

Following the initial inspections, the factory and the brands are tasked to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that details the time-bound remedial action(s) for completion which is based on the severity of the findings. RSC regularly coordinates with the factories to ensure that the outstanding CAPs are being completed and conducts follow-up inspections to monitor that the remediation processes are duly implemented. Other safety inspections include post-incident inspections, OSH complaints initial inspections, fire safety inspections, OSH complaints verification inspections, unannounced OSH complaint inspections, and inspections based on the Safety Committee Walkthrough. Factories are now being inspected within 4 – 5 months' interval which was 8 months before.

<sup>1</sup> RSC commenced its inspection and remediation programme in June 2020.

### FACTORY COVERAGE (As of November 2024)

- Covered factory account number: **1,828**
- **6** new “Independent factories” were listed through the industry (BGMEA, BKMEA) for participating in the RSC’s inspection and remediation programme.
- As of November 2024, **70** factories were waiting for initial inspection.

The following graph shows the total factories being covered by RSC from March 2024 to November 2024.

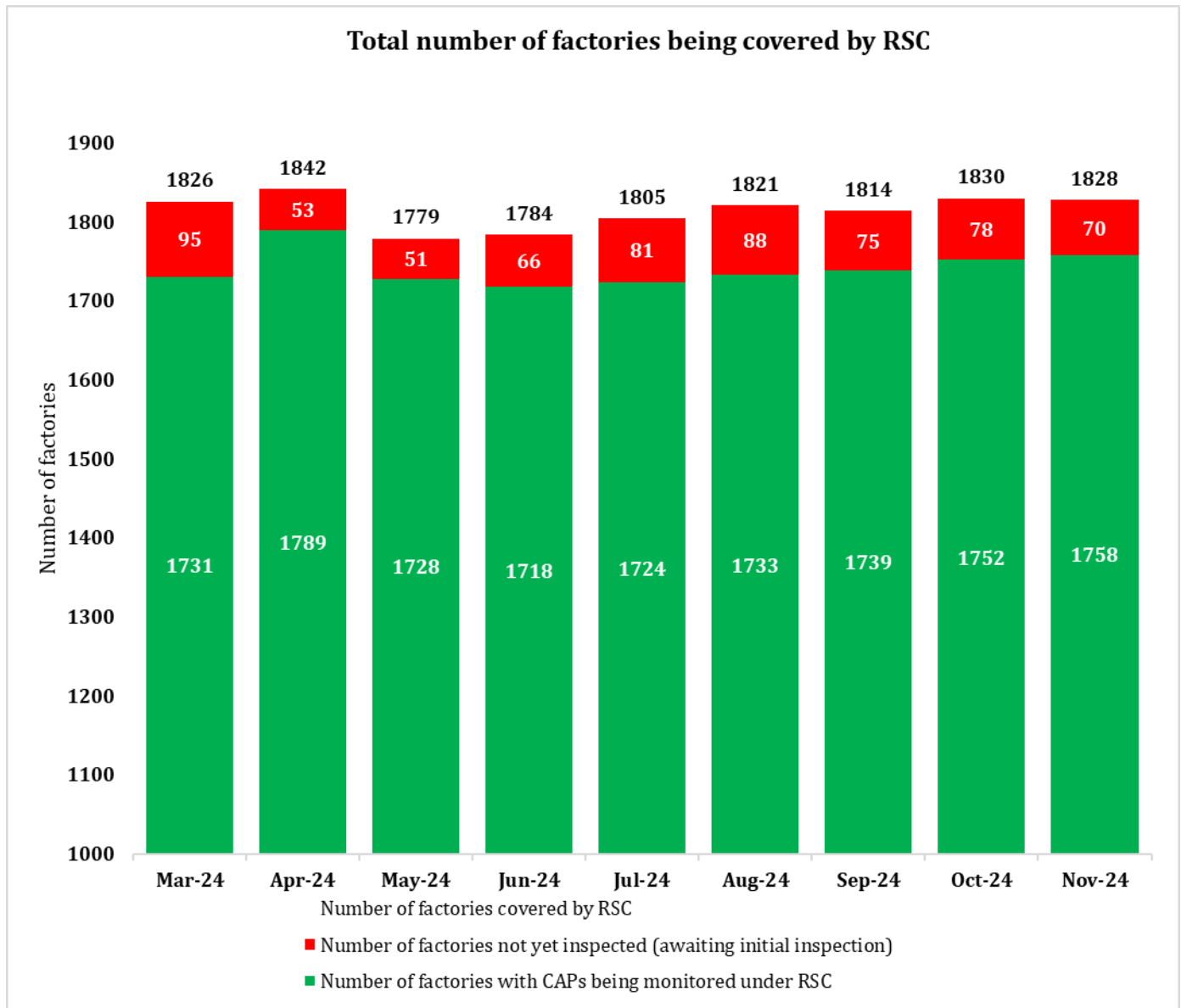
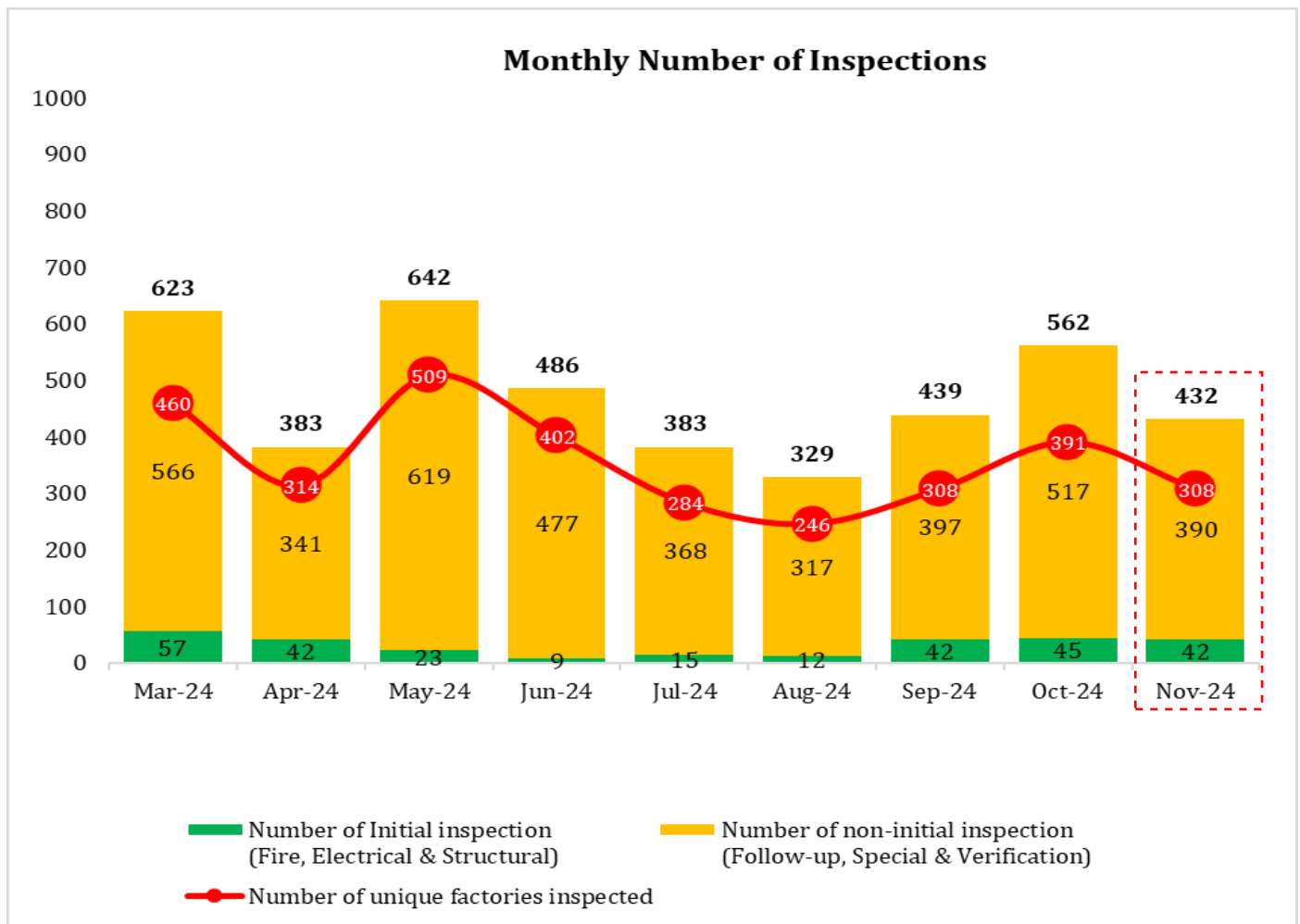


Figure 1: Number of factories covered by RSC

## INSPECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- Total number of inspections: **432** in November.
- Number of unique factories inspected: **308** in November.
- The total inspection number is **1.40** than the number of unique factories covered, indicating multiple inspections conducted simultaneously.
- In November, the total number of initial and follow-up inspections decreased from the previous month. This can be attributed to fewer working days and postponed inspections resulting from worker unrest.

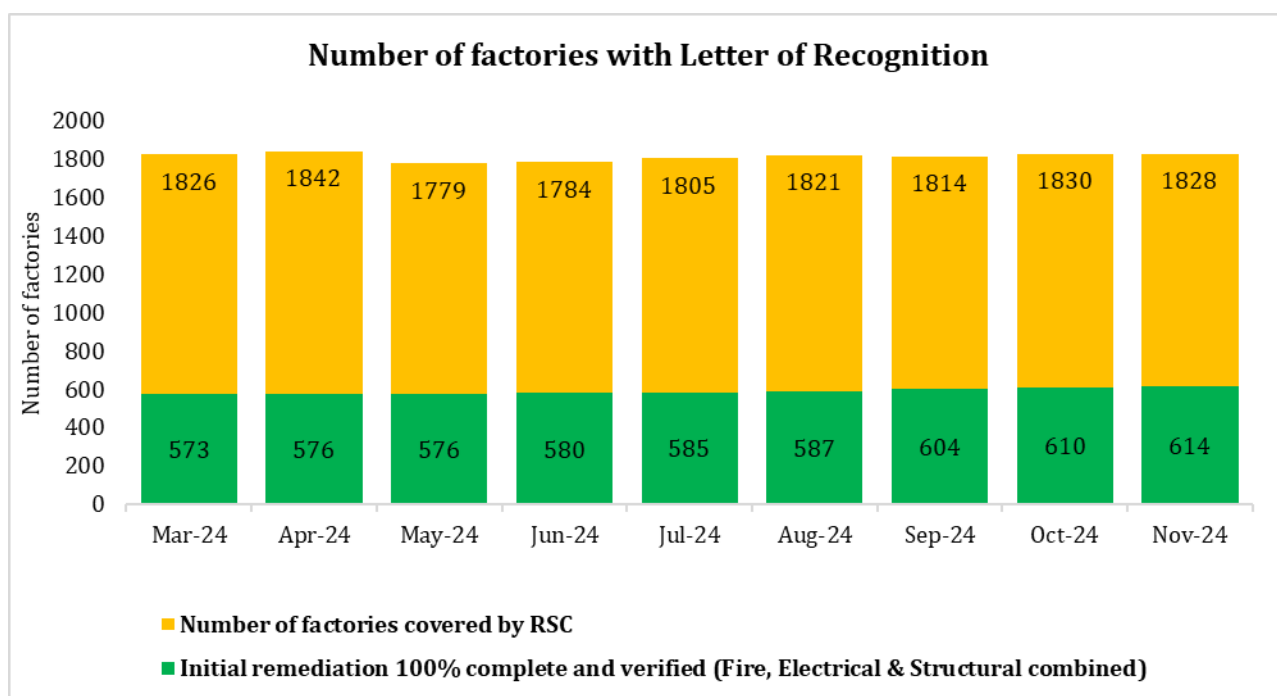


**Figure 2: Number of Inspection conducted by the RSC**

## MONTHLY UPDATE ON SAFETY REMEDIATION

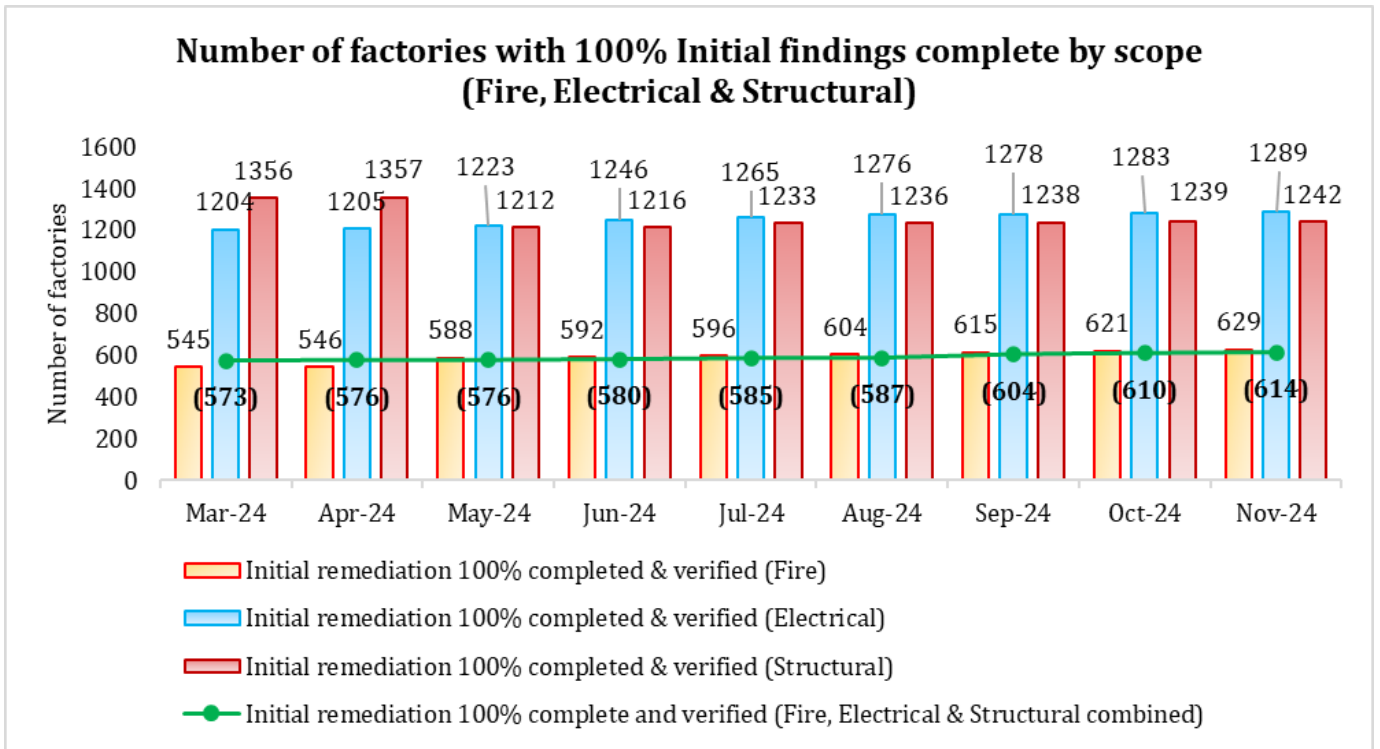
### REMEDIATION PROGRESS ON INITIAL FINDINGS (As of November 2024)

- Out of 1,828 covered factories, 614 received a Letter of Recognition (LOR) for 100% completion of Initial findings).
- Complete remediation of CAP items by the factories (100% completion) is often slow because of the initial fire safety items (Fire Alarm and Detection System-FADS & Suppression System-SUPS) which is a challenge for the factories.
- To address this challenge, RSC updated the T&CVI<sup>2</sup> process that includes a logical sequence of activities with allocating responsibilities at each stage.



**Figure 3: Number of Initial 100% remediate factories (combinedly recognised)**

<sup>2</sup> T&C VI: Testing and Commissioning Verification Inspection



**Figure 4: Number of Initial 100% remediate factories by scope (Fire, Electrical & Structural)**

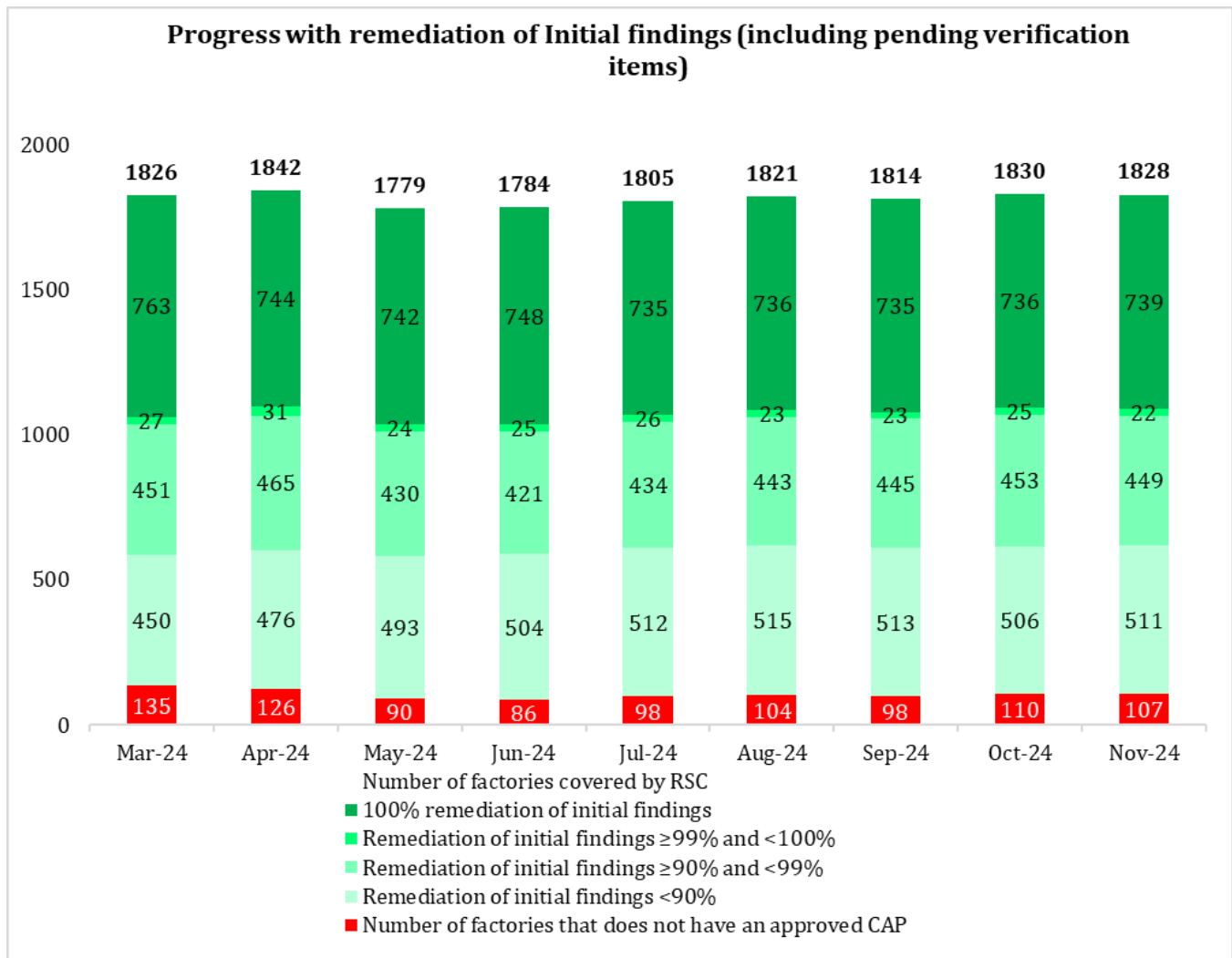


## PROGRESS WITH REMEDIATION OF INITIAL FINDINGS (As of November 2024)

Progress with remediation is recorded following the three stages as mentioned below:

- **In progress:** This is the default status for an inspection finding. It means that remediation of the inspection finding is underway.
- **Pending verification:** The “Pending Verification” status refers to a process where a factory reports to RSC that the finding(s) is/are corrected but requires the RSC engineers’ verification through an inspection.
- **Corrected:** The RSC engineers verified the finding as ‘corrected’ through the follow-up verification inspection and/or testing visits.

The following graph shows the **739** factories that have recorded **100%** of initial findings completed (including Pending verification). Out of these factories, **614** have received the Letter of Recognition (LoRs) as shown in Figure 4.

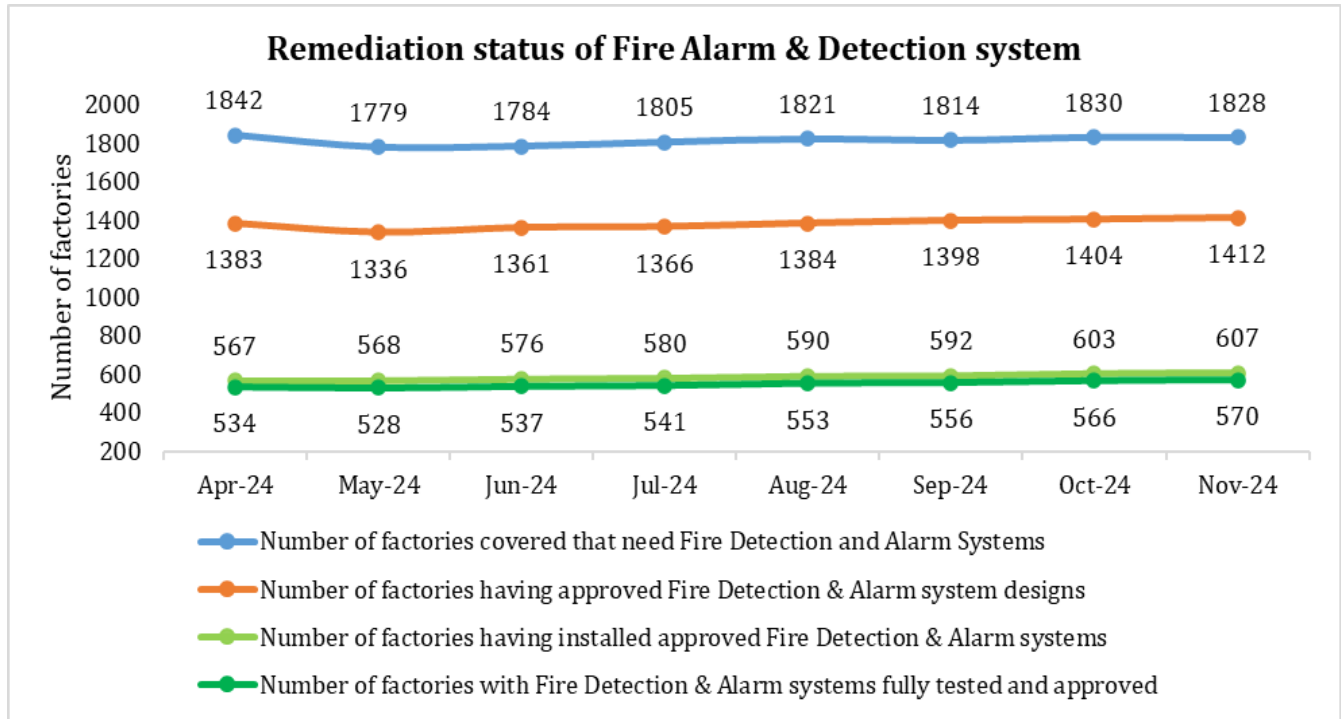


**Figure 5: Initial remediation progress (%) considering pending verification**

## PROGRESS RATE ON MAJOR ITEMS BY DISCIPLINE

### i. Remediation Status of Fire Alarm and Detection Systems (As of November 2024)

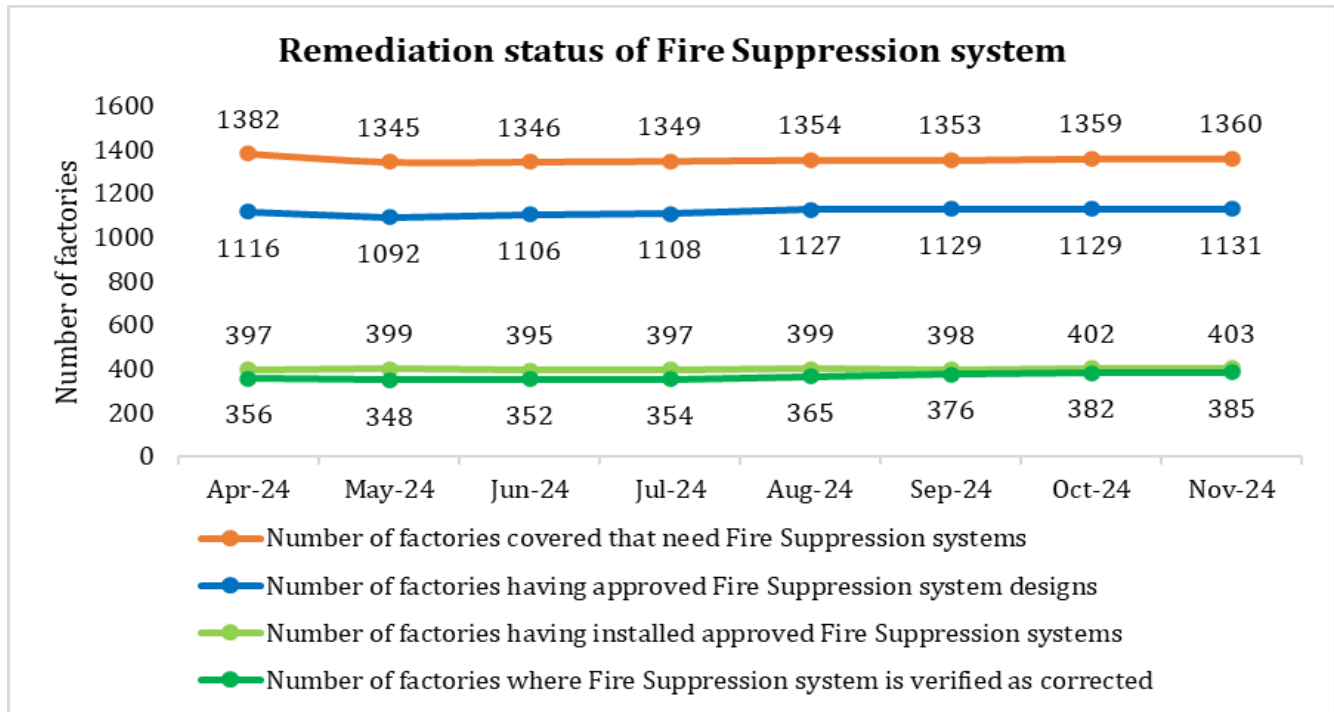
Figure 6 below demonstrates progress over the past 8 months with the three main stages for full testing and approvals of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems (FADS):



**Figure 6: Remediation status of Fire Alarm and Detection System**

### Remediation Status of Fire Suppression Systems (As of November 2024)

Figure 7 below demonstrates progress over the past 8 months with the three main stages for full testing and approvals of Fire Suppression Systems (SUPS):

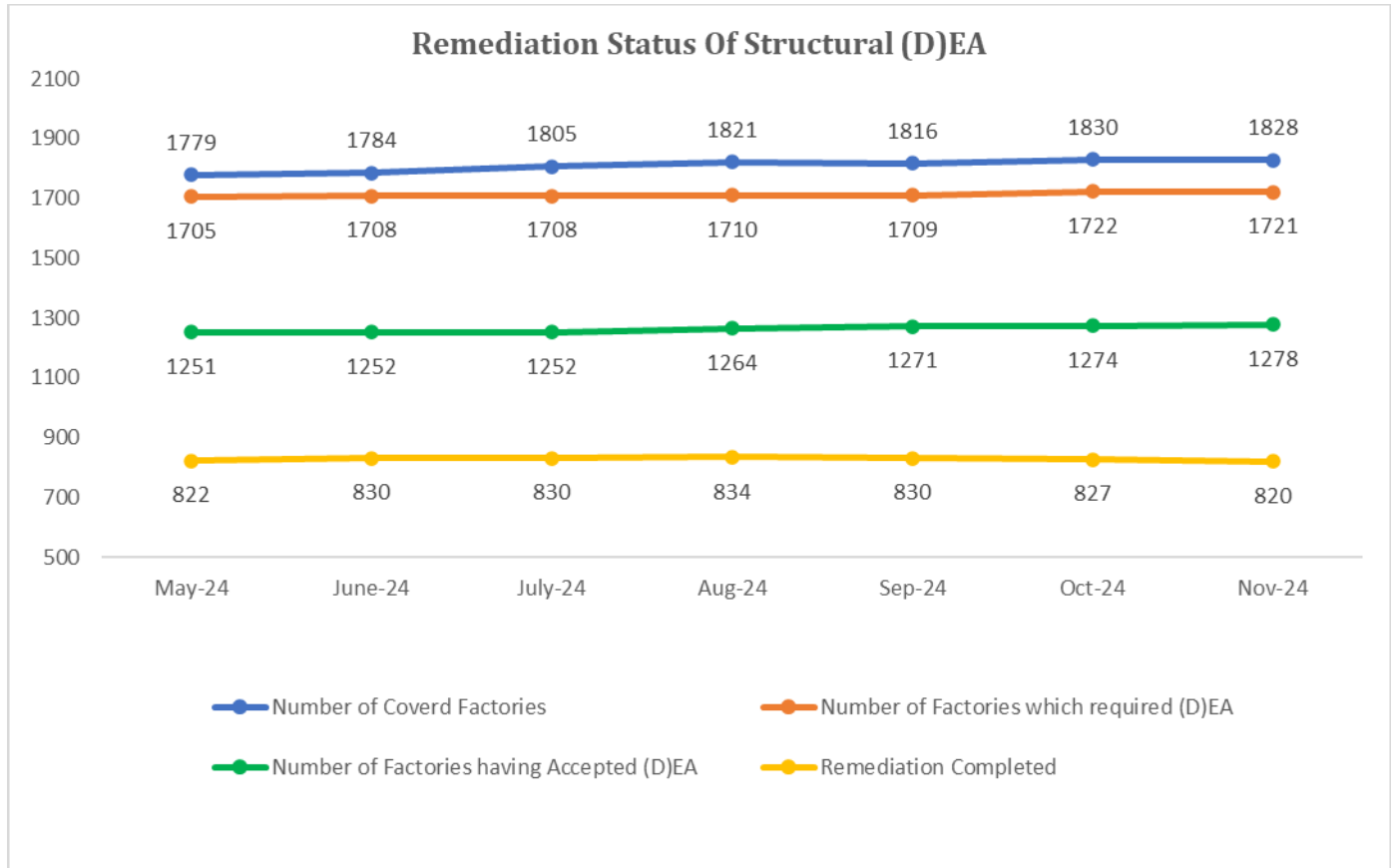


**Figure 7: Remediation status of Fire Suppression System**

**Remediation Status of Structural Items: Detailed Engineering Assessment-(D) EA: (As of November 2024)**

- **Number of factories having accepted (D)EA: 1278.**
- **Number of factories that completed the structural remediation: 820\*.**

The chart demonstrates the number of accepted (D)EAs, where there is a significant difference between desktop approval and the works on-site verified by RSC.

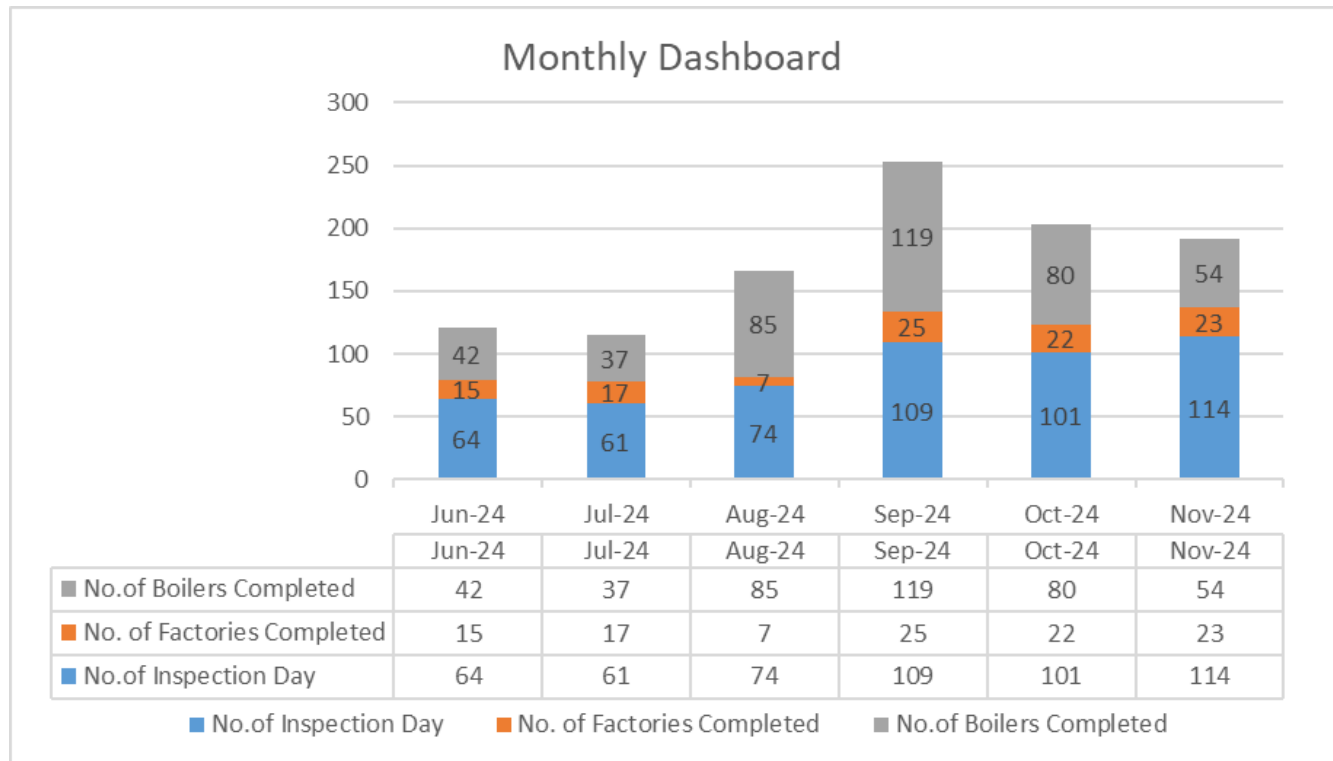


**Figure 8: Remediation status of Structural (D)EA**

\* The number of remediated factories often varies due to the changes of status, such as moving from covered to archived or closed, as well as for the re-approval process.

## MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE BOILER SAFETY PROGRAMME

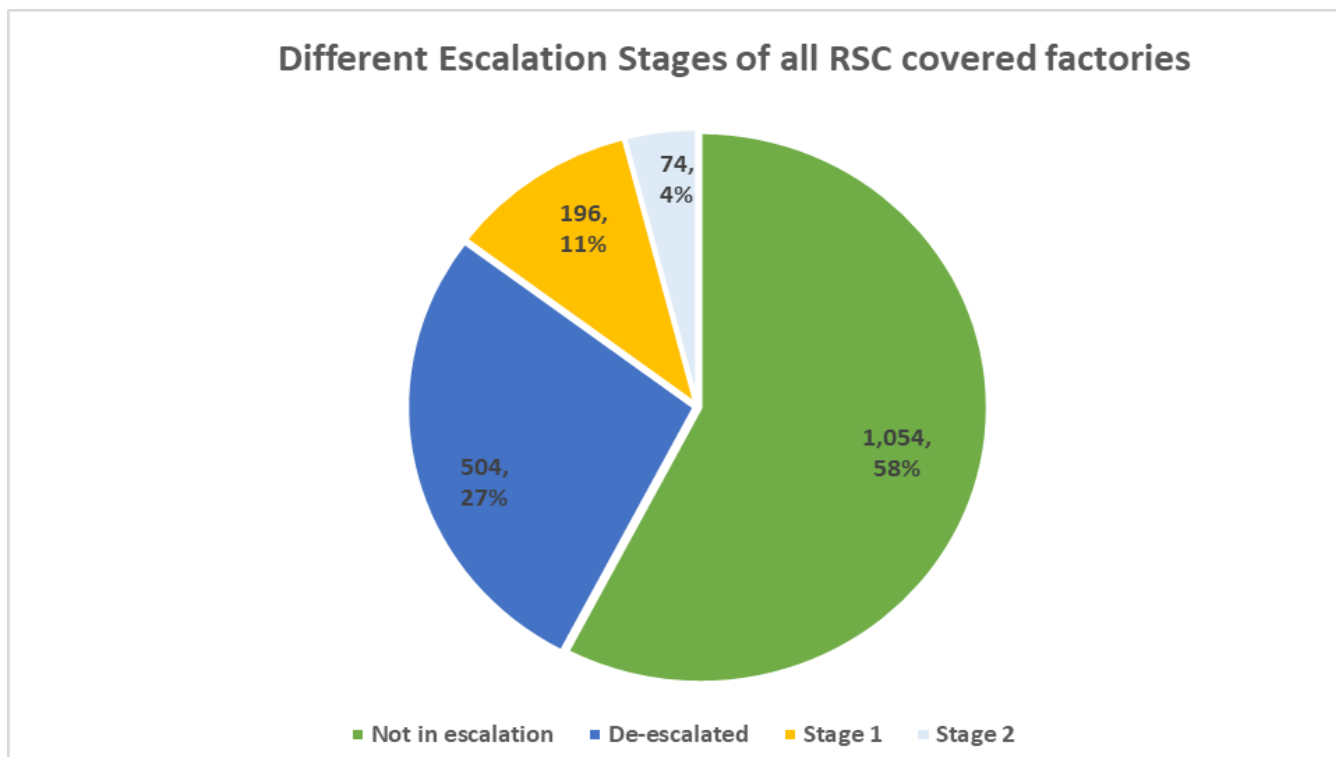
As boiler safety is an integral part of the RSC's mandate, we are currently conducting safety assessments of the boilers at our covered factories. In November 2024, we conducted different types of boiler safety inspections at the factories. The following figure represents the data of our boiler safety inspections conducted in November.



**Figure 9: Monthly Dashboard of Boiler Safety**

## FACTORY ESCALATION STATUS (As of November 2024)

As of November 2024, **270** factories are in different stages of the escalation process, 196 of which are in Stage 1 and 74 in Stage 2. It is to be noted that a total of **504** factories have been de-escalated after the escalation items were verified by the RSC up to this time. Out of the total RSC-covered factories, **1,054** have never gone through any escalation process. The percentage of different escalation stages of the RSC-covered factories (**1,828**) is shown in the pie chart below.



**Figure 10: Escalation status of factories**

## LIST OF FACTORIES THAT RECEIVED STAGE 3 ESCALATION IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

In November 2024, stage 3 escalation was issued to 3 factories as listed below:

ACCOUNT ID	ACCOUNT NAME	ESCALATION STATUS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF ESCALATION
23940	5s Composite Ltd.	Stage 3	18 Nov 2024
11427	Fakir Garments Ltd.	Stage 3	27 Nov 2024
24622	Fakir Garments Ltd. (Extension) (Cluster ID of Fakir Garments Ltd.-11427)	Stage 3	27 Nov 2024

## LIST OF FACTORIES THAT RECEIVED RECOMMENDATION OF PARTIAL/FULL EVACUATION IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

During a structural assessment, or DEA review if RSC engineer(s) find an immediate threat to the occupant of the factory building, then RSC could recommend immediate partial/full evacuation for the factory building. **In November 2024, the RSC didn't recommend partial or full evacuation to any of its covered factories.**

## REPORTED FACTORY INCIDENT(S) IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

When the RSC becomes aware of an incident in any RSC-covered factory, such as a fire or other accident that has caused death or injury or has potential safety implications for the factory's occupants, a post-incident inspection is carried out immediately.

A report of such inspection is produced and shared with designated parties following the protocol. Any action(s)/recommendation mentioned in the report is/are implemented by the factory owner to ensure that adequate safety is re-established in the building.

However, 2 reported incidents occurred at the RSC-covered factory in November 2024. The details are given below:

ACCOUNT ID	ACCOUNT NAME	DATE OF THE INCIDENT	INCIDENT SUMMARY
12641	Giant Textile Ltd	10-Nov-24	<p>The RSC conducted a post-incident inspection on November 12, 2024.</p> <p>On November 9, 2024, the deceased assistant operator was scheduled for a regular shift from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. After 8:00 PM during overtime hours, two assistant operators were tasked with loading fabrics into the washing machine. At one point, one of them left the area to use the washroom, leaving another colleague (deceased assistant operator) inside the machine to organize the fabrics.</p> <p>In the meantime, the machine operator arrived and mistakenly assumed that both assistant operators had completed their tasks and left the area. As a result, the operator activated the machine sometime between 8:00 PM and 11:50 PM on November 9, 2024. Tragically, the assistant operator was still inside the machine when it was turned on.</p> <p>Factory management became aware of the situation between 11:30 PM and 12:30 AM and promptly informed the police and the Fire Service &amp; Civil Defense (FSCD). According to factory management, the FSCD and police authorities arrived at approximately 2:00 AM to 2:30 AM on November 10, 2024. They also mentioned that the FSCD team worked for several hours to extract the deceased's body from the washing machine and began a thorough investigation. The deceased's body was subsequently transported to the hospital by the FSCD team at approximately 8:00 AM on November 10, 2024.</p> <p>No electrical damage was observed because of the incident.</p>



9276	Zaber & Zubair Fabrics Ltd	14-Nov-24	<p>The RSC conducted a post-incident inspection on 19 November 2024.</p> <p>There were no reported fatalities or injuries resulting from the fire incident.</p> <p>The fire originated on the roof of Block-B of Single-Story Prefab Home Dyeing Shed-1, affecting the office rooms, conference rooms, archive rooms, lab rooms, and engraving section. According to the factory representative's statement, on Thursday, 14 November 2024, at approximately 9:26 a.m., a fire alarm has been activated and the Fireman observed 5 to 7 recurring fire signals on the Fire Alarm Control Panel originating from the affected location. He promptly informed another fireman, who was working inside the shed at that time. Upon receiving the call and hearing the fire alarm, the fireman rushed to the site, confirmed the presence of a fire, and he pulled/pressed a Manual Call Point again in that area to alert others.</p> <p>The fire impacted approximately 12,000 sq. ft. of Block-B within the 241,000 sq. ft. Single-Story Prefab Home Dyeing Shed-1. The rooftop of the affected area was lined with cotton reflective aluminum foil insulation for sun heat protection beneath roof tin, which caused the fire to spread rapidly, covering the area in approximately 40 seconds. Around 30 individuals utilized 12 fire hose pipes (comprising 2 Class-I and 10 Class-II hoses) from four different points to collectively control the fire. At 9:36 a.m., the Junior Officer, Fire &amp; Safety contacted the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD) authority. Two FSCD units from Tongi arrived at approximately 9:50 a.m and started their operation at 10:00 a.m. However, the factory's internal fire safety team completely doused the fire using hose pipes by 9:55 a.m. The FSCD team worked on extracting heavy, dense smoke from the affected area and subsequently confirmed that the fire had been completely extinguished. The FSCD also initiated their investigation of the accident.</p>
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## **MONTHLY UPDATE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMPLAINTS MECHANISM (November 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024)**

### **Key Functions of the Occupational Safety and Health Complaints Mechanism**

Workers at RSC-covered factories and their representatives have the right to lodge complaints at the RSC Safety and Health Complaints Mechanism remedial of any safety concerns that are not being effectively addressed at the factory level. They can raise concerns about safety and health risks without any fear and due confidentiality. The Safety and Health Complaints Mechanism also protects complainants from reprisal, harassment, threat, or other retaliatory actions for exercising the right to file a complaint. This protection applies regardless of whether the complaint is determined to be OSH (Occupational Safety & Health) or non-OSH. All complaints are assessed to determine if they fall under occupational safety and health safety.

RSC has recently completed the NON-OSH pilot program which started on March 11th, 2024, and concluded on August 11th, 2024. This initiative covered concerns such as Freedom of Association (FoA), child labour, forced labour, discrimination, minimum wages, benefits, leave, unfair employment contracts, separation, and environmental complaints. Selected 100 brands and their 503 associated sourcing factories were under this pilot. The resolution protocol for Non-OSH Pilot complaints mirrors that of OSH, However, if necessary, the protocol will be revised considering the pilot program observation if required.

Occupational safety and health complaints and non-OSH pilot-covered complaints are processed by RSC staff specialized in investigating and resolving complaints. RSC complaint specialists are responsible for verifying the delivery of the remedy for all complaints. Where complaints affect the safety of all workers/groups of workers, the RSC announces the findings and remediation requirements to all workers at the factory.

Complaints that fall outside of the remit of the Occupational Safety and Health Complaint Mechanism and Non-OSH pilot (i.e., other non-OSH complaints) are forwarded to factory management, responsible brands, and labour signatories.

Complainants alleging issues at factories that are not covered by the RSC are provided with the contact information of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE).

### **Total Complaints Received (1 November 2024 – 30 November 2024)**

The RSC received 136 complaints during the reporting period mentioned. Of these, 32 (24%) are Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) related complaints, and 104 (76%) are non-OSH related complaints. Moreover, RSC received 377 complaints under the non-OSH pilot program from 11 March to 11 August 2024 of which 330 eligible complaints were processed and out of them 139 were fully resolved, 46 were partially resolved, and 12 were resolved outside. At the end of the pilot period, a total of 133 outstanding complaints were forwarded to the respective brands for further action.

## Monthly Update, Complaints Mechanism, RSC (November 2024)

Complaints Receiving Statistics					
Duration	OSH	Other NON-OSH	Total	OSH%	Other NON-OSH%
Nov-24	32	104	136	24%	76%
RSC Period	1,883	5,995	7,878	24%	76%
ACCORD Period	1,190	1,089	2,279	52%	48%
Total Period	3,073	7,084	10,157		

Complaints Closing Statistics					
Duration	OSH	Other NON-OSH	Total	OSH%	Other NON-OSH%
Nov-24	34	103	137	25%	75%
RSC Period	1,920	6,004	7,924	24%	76%
ACCORD Period	1,049	1,050	2,099	50%	50%
Total Period	2,969	7,054	10,023		

Complaints In-Progress/ Pending Statistics					
Duration	OSH	Other NON-OSH	Total	OSH%	Other NON-OSH%
Nov-24	103	30	133	77%	23%
RSC Period	103	30	133	77%	23%
ACCORD Period	1	0	1	100%	0%
Total Period	104	30	134		

Monthly Closing Status- OSH Complaints		
SL	Category	Quantity
1	Resolved	28
2	Disengaged	1
3	Withdrawn	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>

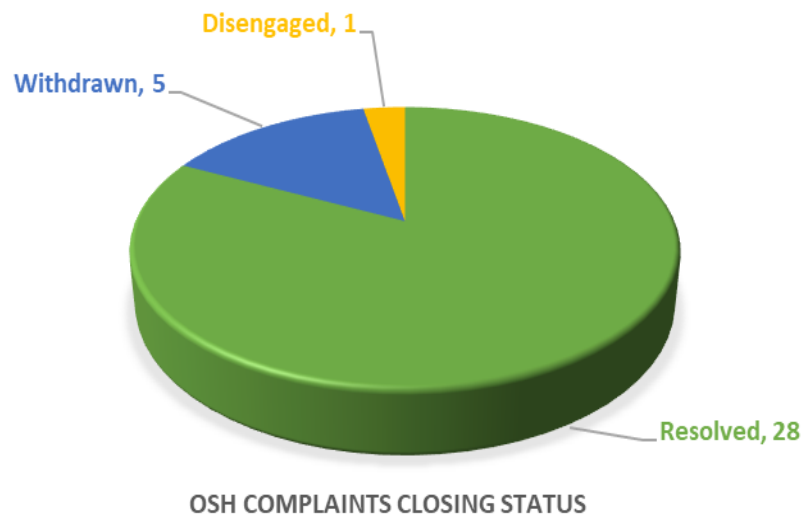


Figure 11: Monthly Closing Status of OSH Complaints

*NB: OSH & NON-OSH data final status may vary based on assessment.*

### Non-OSH Pilot Update [Duration (11 March-11 Aug)]

<b>Total Complaints received</b>	<b>377</b>
<b>Total number of eligible complaints</b>	<b>330</b>
- Complaints Resolved	139
- Partial Resolved	46
- Resolved Outside RSC Complaints Mechanism	12
- In Progress (Handover to Lead Brands)	133

\* November - 24 (1 November – 30 November 2024), RSC period (1 June 2020 – 30 November 2024), Accord Period (1 August 2014 – 31 May 2020), Total period 1 August 2014- 30 November 2024

## MONTHLY UPDATE OF OSH TRAINING PROGRAMME (As of November 2024)

### Key Functions of the OSH Training Programme

#### Facilitation of Safety Training

- The RSC Safety Committee and Safety Training (SCST) Programme currently consists of 8 training modules conducted through 8 sessions for the members of the factory Safety Committee.
- As part of the training programme, the Safety Committee, and the RSC OSH Training Programme Specialist Conduct Walk Through (WT) (a type of inspection) at the factory to identify actual or any potential safety and health hazards.**

#### All Employee Meetings

- Following a preliminary consultation (Initial Meeting) with the factory management, the RSC OSH Training department schedules 3 “All Employee Meetings (AEM)” at the factory grounds where all employees of the factory are invited to participate.

A factory receives a **Letter of Acknowledgement** (LoA) from RSC after participating in all the activities designed under the Safety Committee and Safety Training (SCST) Programme. The Safety Committee members conduct investigations immediately after any accidents/incidents take place at any factory.

OSH Training Programme Monthly Report November -2024				
Particular (Number of)	For November 2024	As of 30 November -2024		RSC Period
		Accord (Until 31st May 2020)	Work done by Accord & RSC	
<b>Safety Committee (SC)</b>				
-SC Enrolled in RSC Training Programme	39	1,279	1,723	444
-Total Safety Committee Meeting	36	634	3,546	2,912
<b>Training Conducted</b>				
-Total Sessions	85	7,825	19,064	11,239
- No. of SC Members Enhanced Capacity	717	10,831*	20,471*	9,640
- Walk Through	50	2,294	7,333	5,039
- Walk Through Findings	317	13,047	40,280	27,233
<b>Factories Completed OSH Training Full Cycle</b>				
-Regular	-	558	1,354	796
-Resumption	8	-	825	825
<b>All Employee Meeting (AEM)</b>				
- Total AEM Conducted	48	2,742	3842	1,100
- Factories Covered	48	1350**	1625**	275
- Workers Reached	85,075	1,905,681***	2517629***	611,948
<b>Factories Awarded – Letter of Acknowledgement (LOA)</b>	3	530	1276	746

\* The number of SC members who participated in training module 1, to avoid repeated counting of the SC members.

\*\* Number of factories where at least one AEM is conducted.

\*\*\* Maximum number of workers participated in at least one of the 3 AEMs.

### OSH Training Program Update as of November 2024

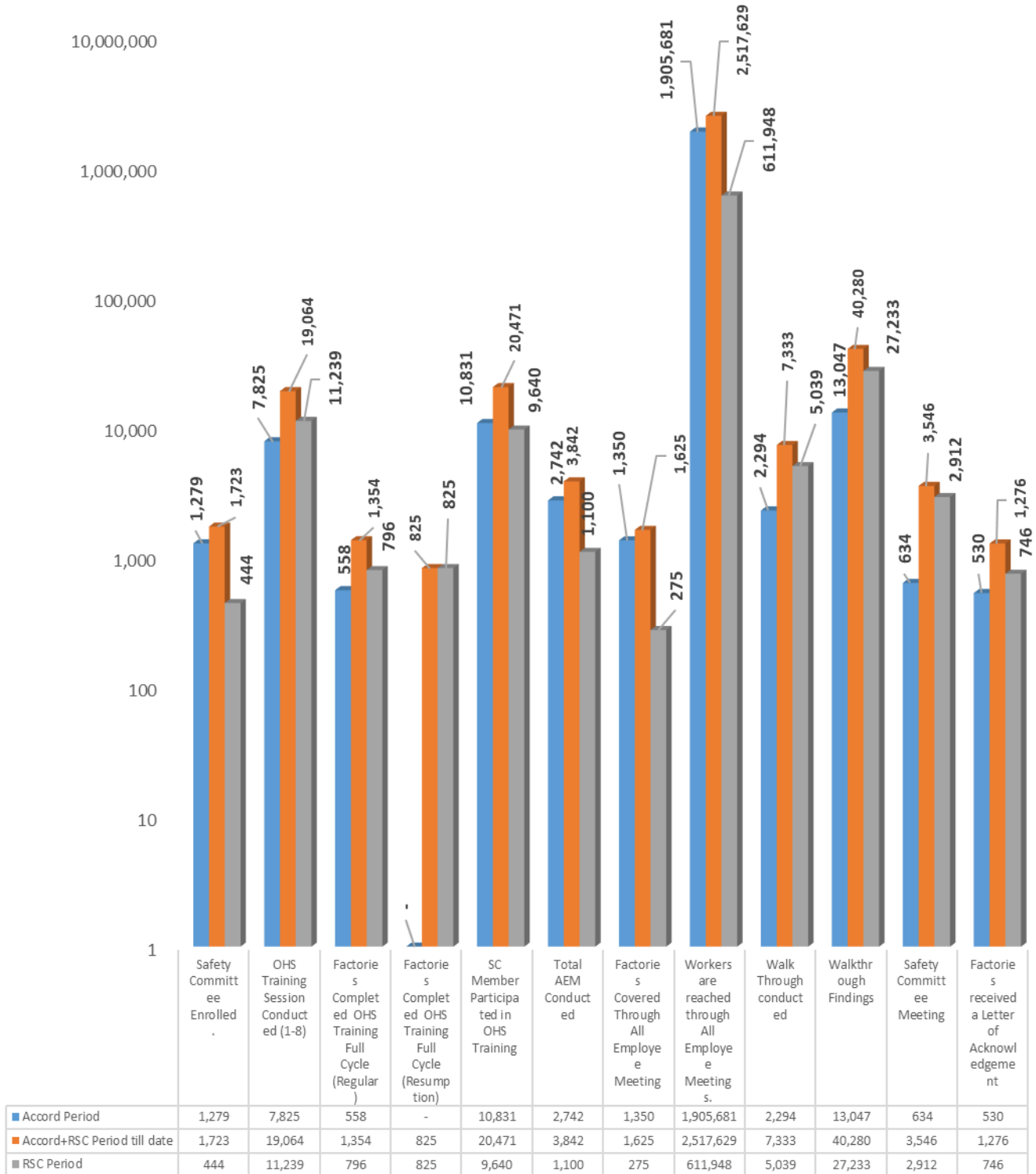


Figure 13: OSH Training Program Monthly Report November - 2024