

Press Release

**For Immediate Release
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Third Transparency Report Demonstrates Improvements in Working Conditions

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia – The International Labour Organization’s Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) programme today releases its 3rd online Transparency Report covering the period from July to September 2014. The report presents working conditions for 248 of Cambodia’s garment factories.

Two of the thirteen factories included in the Low Compliance category made 31 verifiable improvements and, as a result, moved off the Low Compliance list. Low Compliance factories are those whose performance falls two standard deviations below the mean for compliance on 52 key issues among factories with three or more BFC assessments.

One-fourth of the 95 factories added to the Critical Issues list made improvements on 21 basic legal requirements in anticipation of their inclusion in the report. The total number of Critical Issues violations in this group of factories fell from 109 to 75 between July and September—a 30% improvement.

Thirty-eight factories (40% of the newly added factories) were already in full compliance on all 21 of the basic legal requirements included in the Critical Issues category. Another 12 factories that made verifiable improvements between July and September were able to move into this group of factories for a total of 50 factories (52%) with no violations of the Critical Issues.

The following compliance data from before transparency and after transparency help to illustrate the impact of transparent reporting on working conditions and worker rights:

- Factories conducting regular emergency evacuation drills rose from 57% to 76%.
- Factories discriminating against workers dropped from 15% to 7%.
- Factories paying proper seniority-related bonuses to workers increased from 64% to 78%.

BFC’s Chief Technical Advisor, Jill Tucker says: “We are encouraged by the improvements that have been made by these 248 factories since the Transparency program began. In many cases, factories had failed to make changes over a period of years, but they are now taking action as a result of transparent reporting.”

“We look forward to continuing to work with the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Labour on this initiative, especially to make changes in the factories in the Low Compliance category.”

Union compliance with legal requirements for strikes is also disclosed. None of the strikes conducted in the factories included in the October 2014 Transparency Database met legal requirements.

The details for all factories and unions covered by this initial transparency report are available at <http://betterfactories.org/transparency/>.

Transparency Database Summary Report is attached.

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