



BETTER WORK

Better Work Statement on Classic Fashion Factory Allegations

Better Work, a partnership programme of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), aims to improve compliance with international labour standards and national labour law and promote industry competitiveness in global supply chains. Better Work currently has a country programme focused on the garment sector in Jordan, which began conducting assessments in March 2009. Recently, the US-based Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights has raised concerns about conditions at Jordanian factories owned by Classic Fashion Apparel Industry Ltd. Co. (Better Work participants since April 2009), and the Better Work Assessment Reports for these factories. Better Work, which has found significant non-compliance in Classic Group factories, including in areas reported by the Institute, takes these allegations seriously. We are investigating the Institute's claims, as well as evaluating our own processes and evidence pertaining to these factories.

The Better Work investigation will include the following:

- a. Confidential, off-site interviews with workers from all migrant groups employed by the factory.
- b. Unannounced spot checks at Classic factories in the immediate and coming period.
- c. An assessment of the effectiveness of the joint worker-management Performance Improvement Consultative Committees and what further support can be offered by the programme to increase and accelerate progress.

Better Work's continuous improvement process is focused on long-term sustainable changes in workplace conditions and industrial relations. Better Work Jordan has worked with Classic factories to establish Performance Improvement Consultative Committees (PICCs), which include equal numbers of management and worker representatives, and identify areas for remediation. Our assessment and advisory service cycle includes one comprehensive compliance assessment per year, with regular PICC meetings throughout the year to develop and implement improvement plans. In addition, progress reports are issued in months four and eight to assess progress and keep buyers informed. Enterprise Advisors undergo comprehensive training to conduct assessments; all findings are thoroughly documented based on Enterprise Advisor observations during factory visits, thorough document reviews and interviews with management, workers and union representatives.

Aggregated non-compliance findings of all factories in Jordan were released by Better Work in May 2010. The next public report will include individual factory-level compliance information and will be released in the first quarter of 2011.

Better Work will continue working with our stakeholders to assure the quality of all programme components.

For more information on the Better Work service cycle, please click [here](#).

For more information on the Better Work quality assurance process, please click [here](#).