



HEALTH & SAFETY COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS OF GEORGIAN APPAREL COMPANIES

FINAL

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ABSTRACT

This report, conducted by EPI's Standards and Compliance Consultant, assesses the Georgian apparel sector's compliance with minimum health and safety requirements and provides suggestions for improvement. The report was prepared after visiting nine apparel companies in December 2011. The health and safety recommendations for all apparel companies focus on shifting priorities to safe production processes, a healthy working environment, and enhanced morale. These factors will help the apparel sector gain long-term sustainability and be competitive through adoption of international standards.

ABBREVIATIONS

EPI	Economic Prosperity Initiative
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
M&S	Manufacturing and Services Component
OH&S	Operational Health and Safety
OHSAS	Occupational Health and Safety Management System
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WRAP	Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production

CONTENTS

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
II.	APPENDICES.....	2
A.	BACKGROUND	3
B.	METHODOLOGY	4
C.	FINDINGS.....	7
D.	RECOMMENDATIONS	29

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EPI recognizes the importance of Health, Safety, Environmental (HSE) and social compliance and therefore intends to assist Georgian apparel companies in reaching international production standards such as the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment System (OHSAS) 18001 and Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP). EPI believes that the adoption of international standards will significantly improve staff welfare, mitigate operational risks and improve factory infrastructure, thereby facilitating the apparel sector's long-term financial sustainability and attracting FDI.

EPI's Standards and Compliance Consultant visited nine apparel companies to assess their compliance with minimum health and safety requirements according to a pre-designed checklist. The checklist referenced the standards established by both the Federal OSHA for *Apparel And Other Finished Products Made From Fabrics And Similar Materials* Industry Group and the WRAP self-assessment checklist.

While health and safety issues were not initially prioritized among Georgian apparel manufacturing companies, four factories expressed a willingness to adopt the international WRAP standard requirements.

II. APPENDICES

A. BACKGROUND

B. METHODOLOGY

C. FINDINGS

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. BACKGROUND

In April 2011, EPI's apparel consultant, Margaret Bishop, conducted export capacity assessments for ten Georgian apparel and footwear manufacturers. Most recommendations focused on safety upgrades, advancement of factory infrastructure and HSE/social compliance. Each factory was assessed separately and the results were recorded in individual reports. At the end of 2011, EPI's Standards and Compliance Consultant revisited the factories to measure their progress in implementing her recommendations.

EPI acknowledges the importance of both HSE and social compliance and intends to support the Georgian apparel companies aligning their production standards with the following international certifications and requirements:

- Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the certification of lawful, humane and ethical manufacturing throughout the world. WRAP was established in January 2000 and is the world's largest labor and environmental certification program for labor-intensive consumer products, manufacturing and processing. As a certification body, WRAP sets the standards for manufacturers in many developing countries, and thus is considered the "international passport for entry into western countries".
- The Occupational Health and Safety Assessment System (OHSAS 18001) is an international occupational health and safety management system specification. The OHSAS requirement and standard is applicable to any organization that wishes to establish an OH&S management system to eliminate or minimize risk to employees and other interested parties.
- The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) ensures safe and healthy working conditions for the labor force by establishing and enforcing standards, and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance.

B. METHODOLOGY

EPI's Standards and Compliance Consultant visited nine Georgian apparel companies to assess compliance with health and safety minimum requirements in accordance with a pre-designed checklist. This assessment fulfilled the following objectives:

- a) Evaluate the existing health and safety situation among Georgian apparel companies;
- b) Raise awareness of the importance of complying with international health and safety standards; and
- c) Help Georgian apparel companies adopt international standards.

The checklist referenced the standards established by both the Federal OSHA for *Apparel And Other Finished Products Made From Fabrics And Similar Materials* Industry Group and the WRAP self-assessment checklist. The minimum health and safety requirements were identified according to anticipated risks and hazards, while taking into consideration the working environment, working activities and type of equipment.

Georgian companies were evaluated according to a checklist of 26 health and safety issues. The selected issues were scored 0 – not available, 1 – partly available and 2 – available, and the results are presented in an aggregate form at the end of this document.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CHECKLIST

Health and Safety Risks and Hazards	Health and Safety Issues
Fire Hazard	Fire Extinguishers
	Emergency Exits
	Evacuation Signs
	Evacuation Plan
	Smoke Detectors
	Fire Alarm Drills
	Heating
	Floor Safety
	Stairway Safety
	Electrical Wiring
Chemical Hazards	List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning
	Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning
Injury Hazard	Broken Needle Policy
	First Aid Kit
	Button Stitching Equipment Guard
	Metal Chain Gloves
	Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment
Noise Pollution	Noise in Sewing Room
Sanitary and Hygiene Hazards	WC
	Potable Water

	Textile Waste Collection
	Canteen
	Waste Disposal
	Uniforms
	Appropriate Lighting
	Ventilation System

EXPLANATION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARDS AND ISSUES

Fire Hazard – The high level of electricity consumption from sewing machines, the use of ironing equipment and the presence of flammable fabrics, such as cotton, increase the risk of fire in apparel factories. Companies should therefore install or establish appropriate infrastructural safety mechanisms such as fire extinguishers, emergency exits, an evacuation plan, appropriately-installed evacuation doors, and non-slip floors and stairs to minimize the risk of injury during a potential evacuation. The method used for installing electrical wiring is also very important in apparel factories, and businesses should check whether electrical devices are grounded to protect people from shock and fire risk.

According to international standards, fire alarm drills should be carried out at least annually. The A-rating or Fire Rating of a fire extinguisher can be used to calculate the number of extinguishers required in a factory; the A-Rating is printed on the casing of the extinguisher. The number of extinguishers required can be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Extinguishers per floor} = \text{Floor area } M^2 \times 0.065 / \text{extinguisher A-rating}$$

The number of fire extinguishers also depends on the equipment used by the company. The use of ironing machinery, for example, requires additional fire extinguishers.

Chemical Hazard – Apparel factories use chemicals for fabric spot cleaning, some of which are toxic. It is necessary to maintain an up-to-date list of all chemicals used and follow instructions written on labels to minimize health problems caused from inhalation, as well as eye or skin contact. Additionally, each factory should ensure that the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is always used during the application of toxic chemicals.

Injury Hazard – The fast and repetitive work of fabric cutting equipment and button stitching machines increases the risk of accidental hand injuries. Eye injuries can occur if the needle of the sewing machine or button stitching machine breaks. Each company should create a safe working environment for their workers by ensuring that equipment is supplied with guards and workers are using the proper PPE. In addition, finished apparel products may contain pieces of broken needles left over from sewing machines, and companies must ascertain that finished garments are free of needle parts to avoid potential injury to customers. In this case, apparel companies usually establish a broken needle policy, which requires the detection, collection and recording broken needles. Metal detection equipment can be installed.

Noise Pollution – Sewing machines generate extreme levels of noise, which should be measured and recorded and, when necessary, workers should be supplied with special ear protector devices to avoid injury or illness, such as hypertension or stress. According to the OSHA standards, employees who are exposed to noise at or above an eight-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels should be supplied with ear protection devices, and all

continuous, intermittent and impulsive sound levels from 80 decibels to 130 decibels should be integrated into the noise measurements.

Sanitary and Hygienic Hazard – The following are essential for a healthy working environment: proper ventilation of stressful and crowded working conditions, good hygienic standards and proper sanitation. Adequate lighting in the workplace is very important as sewing is considered to be high precision work and, according to international standards, requires a light intensity of 1,000-3,000 lux.

C. FINDINGS

ELSELEMA

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The factory has a few fire extinguishers, although they are insufficient for the size of the production rooms and the number of ironing stations present. Additionally, fire extinguishers are not easily accessible.
Emergency Exits	One sewing room can only be entered from another through doors that open only in one direction. Rooms do not have emergency exits. Only the last room has an exit to the stairway, which can serve as an emergency exit. In this case, entrances should be widened to avoid overcrowding during an emergency evacuation.
Evacuation Signs	The factory does not have any evacuation signs.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory does not have a centralized heating system, and instead, uses electric heaters that pose a safety risk.
Floor Safety	The linoleum floor covering is uneven and damaged, increasing the risk of injury during an emergency evacuation.
Stairway Safety	The steps do not have safety signs indicating that workers should 'mind the step'. The stairways do not have handrails and steps do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	The electric heaters and ironing machines are connected to the power source using several power cables; thereby creating a risk of fire through overheating. Power plugs and sockets are not properly installed.
List of Chemicals Used For Spot Cleaning	The factory does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Personal Protective Equipment For Spot Cleaning	PPE is not available at the factory since it does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory does not have a broken needle policy. It neither records nor collects needles.
First Aid Kit	The factory does not have a first aid kit.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching guard is not used. There are cases of finger injury at the company.
Safety Glasses For Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The factory has metal chain gloves for the cutting machines, but they are not used.
Noise In Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is not measured or controlled.
WC	The factory's WC is in a poor sanitary condition.

Potable Water	Potable water is accessible. Water dispensers are available at the factory.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins, but textile pieces are scattered on the floor. The floors are cleaned daily.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Canteen	The factory does not have a canteen and workers eat their lunches in the sewing rooms.
Uniforms	Workers do not have specific uniforms.
Proper Lightening	Lighting is not measured, but workers do not claim poor lighting.
Ventilation System	The factory does not have a proper ventilation system.



The fire extinguisher is located high on the wall, making it inaccessible.



The water dispensers and electrical wiring are poorly installed.



Factory floor is damaged.



Stairways do not have handrails.



Poor sanitary conditions in the factory's WCs.



Workers operate cutting equipment without safety gloves.

IMERI

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The factory has a few fire extinguishers, although they are insufficient for the size of the production rooms and the number of ironing stations present.
Emergency Exits	The sewing rooms have emergency exits, but doors are not installed properly.
Evacuation Signs	The factory does not have any evacuation signs.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory has a safe centralized heating system.
Floor Safety	The factory's sewing room is filled with wooden blocks, which are easily flammable and increase the risk of fire.
Stairway Safety	Stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	The ironing machines are connected to mains electricity using several power cables; thereby creating a risk of fire through overheating. Additionally, the sockets are not properly installed.
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	PPE is not available at the factory since it does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory does not have a broken needle policy. It neither records nor collects needles.
First Aid Kit	The factory has a medical center.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching machine is not equipped with a guard.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The factory has metal chain gloves for the cutting machine, but they are not used.
Noise in Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is neither measured nor controlled.
WC	The factory's WCs are in a poor sanitary condition.
Potable Water	Potable water is accessible for the workers as the factory has an on-site tap.
Textile Waste Collection	The textile waste is collected in bins, but textile pieces are still scattered on the floor.
Canteen	The factory has a canteen.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Uniforms	Workers do not have specific uniforms.
Proper Lighting	The factory is equipped with proper lighting, and in some cases the factory supplies additional lighting.

Ventilation System

The factory has a ventilation system, which does not work properly and needs renovation.



Fire extinguishers.



Ventilation system.



Cutting equipment with metal chain gloves.



Health center.



Garden in front of the factory.



Factory canteen.

IVERIA UNIFORMS

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The factory has only one fire extinguisher, which is insufficient for the size of the production rooms. The expiration date is not checked.
Emergency Exits	Not all rooms have emergency exits. One sewing room can be entered only from another sewing room and lacks an additional emergency exit.
Evacuation Signs	The factory does not have any evacuation signs.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory does not have a centralized heating system, and instead, uses electric heaters that pose a safety risk.
Floor Safety	The linoleum floor covering is uneven and damaged, increasing the risk of injury during an emergency evacuation.
Stairway Safety	The stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	The electric heaters and other high consumption equipment are connected to the power source using several power cables; thereby creating a risk of fire through overheating.
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	PPE is not available at the factory since it does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory does not have a broken needle policy. It neither records nor collects needles.
First Aid Kit	The factory does not have a first aid kit.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching guards are not used.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The factory does not have metal chain gloves for the cutting machine.
Noise in Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is not measured or controlled.
WC	The factory's WCs are in a poor sanitary condition.
Potable Water	Potable water is not accessible for workers.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins, but textile pieces are scattered on the floor.
Canteen	The factory does not have a canteen and workers eat their lunches in the sewing rooms.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Uniforms	Workers do not have specific uniforms.

Proper Lighting	The factory is equipped with proper lighting, and in some cases the factory supplies additional lighting.
Ventilation System	The factory does not have a ventilation system.

LAURA GACHAVA

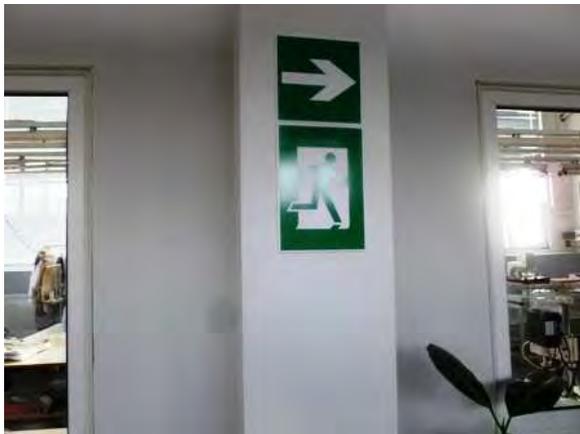
Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The sewing rooms are equipped with several fire extinguishers and their expiration dates are recorded.
Emergency Exits	The factory has emergency exits, but the emergency doors are not properly installed.
Evacuation Signs	Evacuation signs are painted on the floor and are present on the walls.
Evacuation Plan	The factory posts an evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory conducts an annual fire drill.
Heating	The factory has a centralized heating system.
Floor Safety	The floor is not damaged.
Stairway Safety	The stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	Electrical wiring is well installed.
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The chemicals used for spot cleaning are listed on the wall.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	PPE is used for spot cleaning operations
Broken Needle Policy	The factory has a broken needle policy which collects and records needles.
First Aid Kit	Several first aid kits are available in the sewing rooms.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching guard is used.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	Metal chain gloves are used for the cutting machines.
Noise in Sewing Room	The noise in the knitting room is neither measured nor controlled.
WC	The factory's WCs are in good sanitary condition.
Potable Water	Potable water is accessible and the factory provides water dispensers.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins and there are no scattered textile pieces on the floor.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Canteen	The factory has a canteen.
Uniforms	Factory workers are equipped with uniforms.
Proper Lighting	Workers do not claim a lack of lighting.
Ventilation System	The factory has a properly installed ventilation system.



Fire extinguishers.



First aid kit.



Evacuation signs.



Evacuation plan.



Cutting equipment with metal chain gloves.



Evacuation door is not properly installed.



Stairway steps without non-slip surfaces.



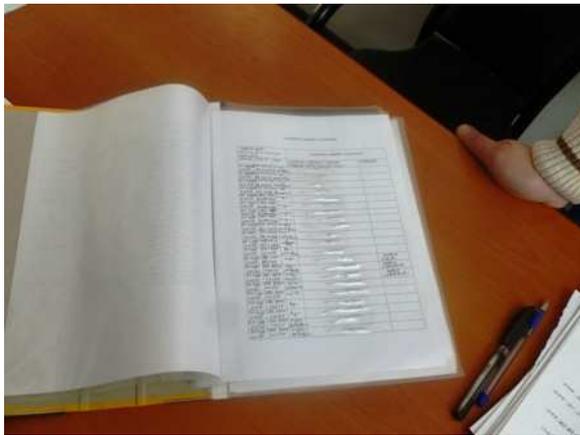
Factory canteen.



Water dispenser.



Clean bathrooms.



Broken needle record book.



Well-sanitized WCs.



Factory garden.



Smoke detectors and ventilation system.

LAZETI

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	There are no fire extinguishers in the sewing rooms.
Emergency Exits	There are no emergency exits in the sewing rooms.
Evacuation Signs	There are no evacuation signs in the sewing rooms.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory does not have a centralized heating system, and instead, uses electric heaters that pose a safety risk.
Floor Safety	The concrete floors are damaged and uneven, increasing the risk of injury during an emergency evacuation.
Stairway Safety	The stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	The electric wiring is fastened to the wall and is inadequately isolated creating a risk of electric shock.
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	PPE is not available at the factory since it does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory does not have a broken needle policy. It neither records nor collects needles.
First Aid Kit	The factory does not have a first aid kit.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching guard is not used.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The factory has metal chain gloves for the cutting machines, but they are not used.
Noise in Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is not measured or controlled.
WC	The factory's WC is in a poor sanitary condition.
Potable Water	Potable water is not accessible to the workers.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins, but textile pieces are scattered on the floor.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Canteen	The factory does not have a canteen and workers eat their lunches in the sewing rooms.
Uniforms	Workers do not have specific uniforms.
Proper Lightening	The workers do not complain of poor lighting and the factory supplies additional lighting.
Ventilation System	The factory does not have a ventilation system.



Factory sewing rooms.



Factory electrical wiring.



Factory electrical wiring.



Food located in the sewing room.



Factory electrical wiring.



Factory electrical wiring.

MATERIA

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The factory does not have any fire extinguishers.
Emergency exits	The factory does not have any emergency exits.
Evacuation Signs	The factory does not have any evacuation signs.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoked detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory does not have a centralized heating system, and instead, uses electric heaters that pose a safety risk.
Floor Safety	The floors are uneven, increasing the risk of injury during an emergency evacuation.
Stairway Safety	The stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity Wring	High power electric equipment uses several power cables; thereby creating a risk of fire through overheating
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	PPE is not available at the factory since it does not use chemicals for spot cleaning.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory does not have a broken needle policy. It neither records nor collects needles.
First Aid Kit	The factory does not have a first aid kit.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching guard is not used.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The factory does not have metal chain gloves for the cutting machine.
Noise in Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is not measured or controlled.
WC	The factory's WC is in a poor sanitary condition.
Potable Water	Potable water is not accessible to the workers.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins, but textile pieces are scattered on the floor.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Canteen	The factory does not have a canteen and workers eat their lunches in the sewing rooms.
Uniforms	Workers do not have specific uniforms.
Proper Lighting	The workers do not complain of poor lighting and the factory supplies additional lighting.
Ventilation System	The factory does not have a ventilation system.

KNITEX

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The factory has only one poorly accessible fire extinguisher which is insufficient for the size of the production room. The fire extinguisher's expiration date is not checked.
Emergency Exits	The factory has emergency exits, but one emergency door is not properly installed.
Evacuation Signs	The factory does not have any evacuation signs.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory does not have a centralized heating system, and instead, uses electric heaters that pose a safety risk.
Floor Safety	The linoleum floor covering is uneven and damaged, increasing the risk of injury during an emergency evacuation.
Stairway Safety	The stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	Many power cables are used in the factory; thereby creating a risk of fire through overheating.
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not have a posted list of chemicals for spot cleaning.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not have PPE for handling chemicals.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory does not have a broken needle policy. It neither records nor collects needles.
First Aid Kit	The factory has a first aid kit.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching guard is not used causing finger injuries at the factory.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The factory does not have metal chain gloves for the cutting machine, resulting in hand injuries at the factory
Noise in Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is not measured or controlled.
WC	The factory's WC is in a poor sanitary condition.
Potable Water	Potable water is not accessible to workers.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins, but textile pieces are scattered on the floor.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Canteen	The factory does not have a canteen and workers eat their lunches in the sewing rooms.
Uniforms	Workers do not have special uniforms.
Proper Lighting	The workers do not complain of poor lighting and the factory supplies additional lighting.

Ventilation System

The factory does not have a proper ventilation system



Food located in the sewing room.



Sewing room.



Cutting equipment without safety gloves.

MILLER AND CO.

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The sewing rooms are not equipped with a sufficient number of fire extinguishers.
Emergency Exits	Only one sewing room has emergency exits. The other two rooms lack emergency exits.
Evacuation Signs	The factory does not have any evacuation signs.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory has a centralized heating system
Floor Safety	The factory flooring is safe.
Stairway Safety	The stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	Electrical wiring is well installed.
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The chemicals used for spot cleaning are listed on the wall.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	The factory uses PPE for spot cleaning operations.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory has a broken needle policy. It collects and records needles and the factory owns a metal detection equipment to maintain needle control.
First Aid Kit	Several first aid kits are available in the sewing rooms.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching equipment is equipped with a guard and the guard is used.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The metal chain gloves are used with the cutting machines.
Noise In Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is not measured or controlled.
WC	The factory's WC is in a good sanitary condition.
Potable Water	The factory has accessible potable water and water dispensers.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins and there are no scattered textile pieces on the floor.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of waste on a daily basis.
Canteen	The factory has a canteen.
Uniforms	Factory workers are equipped with suitable uniforms.
Proper Lighting	The workers do not claim to have poor lighting.
Ventilation System	The factory does not have a proper ventilation system.



Cutting equipment and metal chain gloves.



Sewing room.



Water dispenser.



Needle detector.



Sewing room.



Factory canteen.



The broken needle journal.

UNISTYLE

Health and Safety Issue	Comments
Fire Extinguishers	The factory has fire extinguishers, although they are insufficient for the size of the production rooms.
Emergency Exits	The factory has emergency exits but they are blocked, and one emergency door is poorly installed.
Evacuation Signs	The factory does not have any evacuation signs.
Evacuation Plan	The factory has neither a written or displayed evacuation plan.
Smoke Detectors	The factory is not equipped with smoke detectors.
Fire Drills	The factory does not conduct annual fire drills.
Heating	The factory does not have a centralized heating system, and instead, uses electric heaters that pose a safety risk.
Floor Safety	The floors are damaged and uneven, increasing the risk of injury during an emergency evacuation.
Stairway Safety	The stairways do not have non-slip surfaces.
Electricity & Wiring	Many power cables are used in the factory; thereby creating a risk of fire through overheating. Sockets are poorly installed.
List of Chemicals Used for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not have a posted list of chemicals for spot cleaning.
Personal Protective Equipment for Spot Cleaning	The factory does not have PPE for use with chemicals.
Broken Needle Policy	The factory does not have a broken needle policy. It neither records nor collects needles.
First Aid Kit	The factory has a first aid kit.
Button Stitching Equipment Guard	The button stitching guard is used.
Safety Glasses for Button Stitching Equipment	Safety glasses are not available.
Metal Chain Gloves	The factory does not have metal chain gloves for the cutting machine.
Noise In Sewing Room	The noise in the sewing room is not measured or controlled.
WC	The factory's WC is in a poor sanitary condition.
Potable Water	There is no accessible potable water for workers.
Textile Waste Collection	Textile waste is collected in bins, but textile pieces are scattered on the floor.
Waste Disposal	The factory disposes of the waste on a daily basis
Canteen	The factory does not have a canteen and workers eat their lunches in the sewing rooms.
Uniforms	Workers do not have specific uniforms.
Proper Lighting	The workers do not complain of poor lighting and the factory supplies additional lighting.
Ventilation System	The factory does not have a proper ventilation system.



Sewing room



Unsafe electric heaters in the sewing rooms.



Sewing room with food located on the table.



Unsafe power socket.



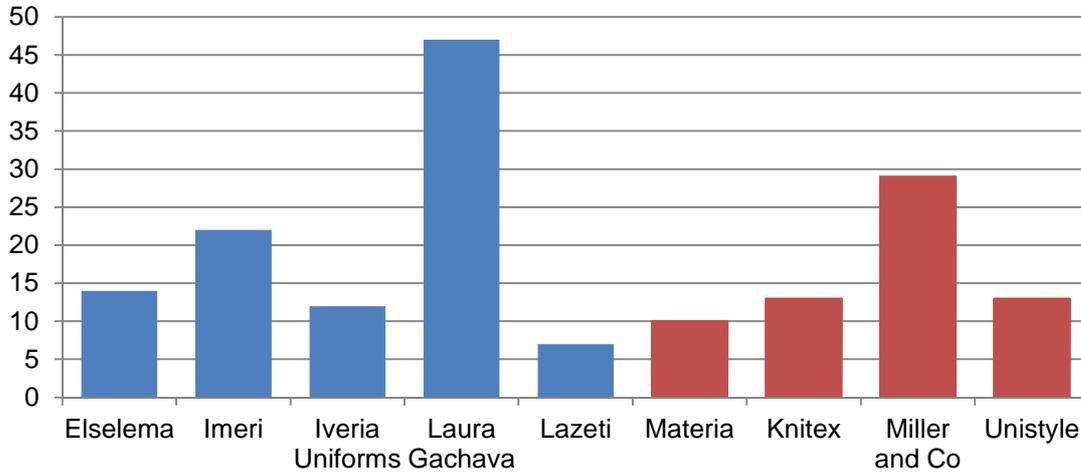
Blocked emergency exit.



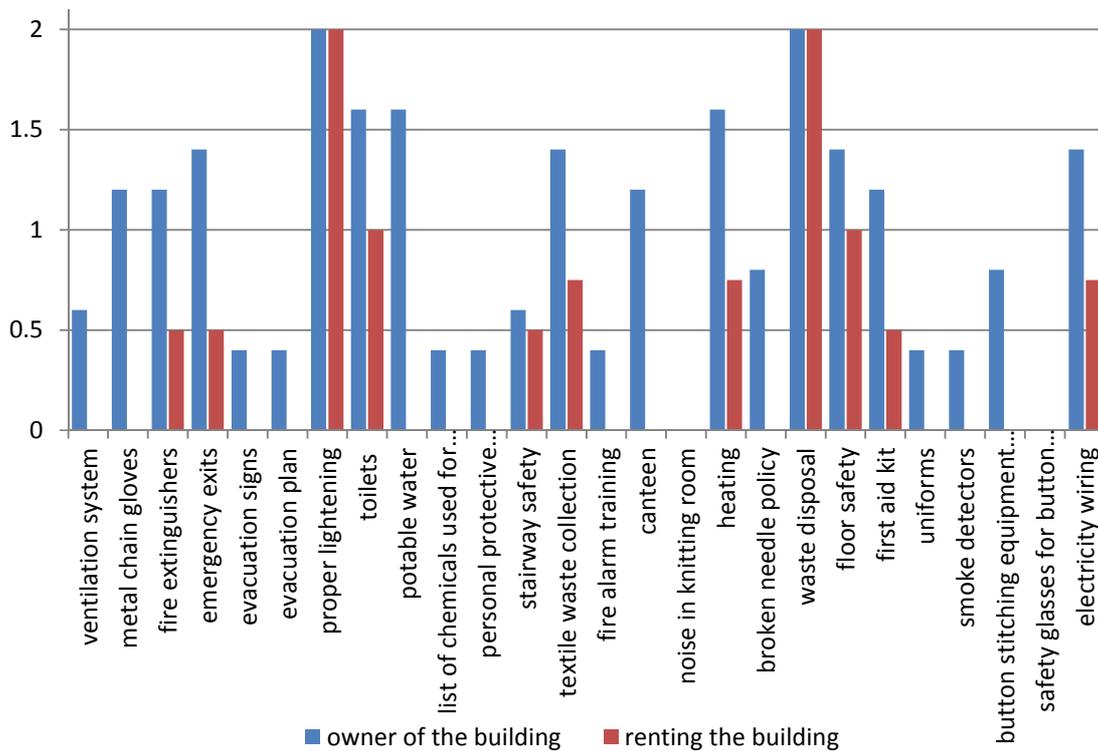
Textile waste collection bins with textile pieces scattered on the floor.

CONCLUSIONS

Overall Scores for Health and Safety Issues



Four factories, Materia, Knitex, Miller & Co and Unistyle, have expressed an interest in adopting the international WRAP standard.



The diagram above demonstrates that apparel companies that own their buildings are more likely to consider health and safety compliance with international standards than those that rent their facilities.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

Georgian apparel manufacturers have, until recently, not considered health and safety issues to be priorities for their businesses. Few have acknowledged the value of complying with HSE standards and expressed a desire to make the necessary changes in order to align their practices with international standards.

The establishment of internationally accredited standards will help to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Georgian apparel industry. However, the high cost of implementing internationally accepted standards and the lack of access to finance leave most apparel companies unable to adopt the OHSAS 18001.

It is therefore suggested that EPI facilitate the implementation of the cost-effective quality-based international WRAP standards.

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