



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **BIG W to sign Bangladesh Safety Accord**

**Friday, 7 June 2013:** Discount department store BIG W has written to IndustriALL to indicate that it will sign the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh.

Last week, BIG W wrote to the global union organisation IndustriALL to signal our support for the Accord's aims and express our intention to become a signatory once the Accord working group, which includes retailers from around the globe, reports on how the agreement should be implemented.

While BIG W already has in place high compliance standards in relation to sourcing from Bangladesh, we believe the Accord on Fire and Building Safety is a positive initiative that enables a collaborative approach.

BIG W already has in place a requirement for all suppliers to comply with our ethical sourcing policy on providing a safe and hygienic working environment, as well as having staff on the ground in Bangladesh and third-party audits of factories. We regularly visit our suppliers' factories in Bangladesh to ensure they meet our standards.

Woolworths Limited is a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact and is an active member of the international Consumer Goods Forum's Global Social Compliance Program. This program aims to deliver a shared and consistent standard for continuous improvement to working and environmental conditions across all manufacturing categories and sectors.

No companies supplying BIG W were involved in the recent tragic incident in Bangladesh.

*-Ends-*

For further information please contact the **BIG W Press Office on 02 8885 1033**