



# Apex Holdings Limited

Apex Spinning & Knitting Mills Limited

Apex Lingerie Limited

Apex Textile Printing Mills Limited

Apex Yarn Dyeing Limited

Apex Fashion Wear Limited



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### **Apex Holdings Limited**

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[www.apexthreads.com](http://www.apexthreads.com); [www.apexfashionwear.com](http://www.apexfashionwear.com)

**Factory:** Mouza: Chandora, P.O.: Shafipur, District: Gazipur

## **Introduction:**

Apex consists of five 100% export oriented textile and Garment manufacturing enterprises under the management of Apex Holdings Limited (AHL). Companies under AHL have been supplying textiles to several large retail chains in the European Union and North America for the last 24 years and enjoy prominent status with them. Our reputation is based on the simple philosophy that “consistent high quality, timely delivery and competitive price are the essence of long term relationships in the export business”. Our strength is derived from the strong belief that the social welfare of our employees and surrounding community is not only necessary but also essential to building a sustainable organization. All companies under AHL are fully compliant with National and International Labor Standards; we provide a clean, safe and healthy working environment, adopt fair labor practices, reward individuals with on-time wages and bonuses without any discrimination and encourage the freedom of association and personal freedom. At the heart of our organization is the belief that it is our obligation to prevent pollution and preserve the environment in all our work. Apex is one of the country’s very first textiles knit composite industries to have its own Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). Apex fully treats all factory effluent before releasing into the environment with our Biological ETP with a daily capacity of 8 million liters/day. To ensure the customers of our high standards we have obtained certification from various international organizations including OEKO-TEX, SEDEX, OE, BSCI, FWC and WRAP, CTPAT, Fair Trade.

Apex consists of the following companies

**1. Apex Spinning & Knitting Mills Limited; Established 1991**

Vertical operation, Fabric to garments; 2.8 – 3.0 million pcs/month knit-garments

**2. Apex Lingerie Limited; Established 1999**

Vertical operation, Fabric to garments; 1.8 - 2.0 million pcs/month bra

**3. Apex Textile Printing Mills Limited; Established 2006**

Vertical operation, Fabric to garments; 1.7 - 1.8 million pcs/month knit-garments and 3.6 to 4.0 million pcs/month of underwear (men’s & ladies)

**4. Apex Yarn Dyeing Limited; Established 2003**

Cotton, polyester & nylon yarn dyeing as well as sewing and embroidery threads

**5. Apex Fashion Wear Limited; Established 2016**

Vertical operation, Fabric to garments; 5.0 million pcs/year knit-garments

The Apex Textile Companies is located in a 30 acre fully owned compound, 35 km from Dhaka International airport on Dhaka-Tangail highway. The different units are housed in separate built spaces consisting of about 100,000 square meters. The complex is equipped with prime power (15 MW), steam (45 T/hr.), Thermo boiler (75 million BTU), Hot water (from waste heat), Compressed air (2500 cuM/hour), Process water treatment (8.0 million liter/day), and effluent treatment (8.0 million liters/day). Along with the production facilities, the complex has a clinic attended by doctors and nurses, child care facilities, both of which are for workers at free of cost. In addition, there is a large dining area and a subsidized canteen for the workers.

## **Apex Spinning & Knitting Mills Limited**

Apex Spinning & Knitting Mills Limited (ASKML) is a vertical setup to manufacture high quality knit garments specializing in infants, children and ladies wear using in-house fabrics. ASKML is equipped to produce a wide range of solid dyed, yarn dyed and all-over printed fabrics using a variety of designs provided by the customer and/or from ASKML's in-house design department. The in-house fabrics can be circular or warp knit in various compositions ranging from 100% cotton to nylon microfiber and gauges ranging from 24GG to 46GG. ASKML is equipped with in-house facilities for embroidery and placement print to offer our customers a variety of product complexity and design. The fifty two sewing lines are set up to efficiently produce 2.8 to 3.0 million pieces of garments per month. Starting from the basics to more complex value added items for infants, children and ladies we are able to produce high quality garments based on designs, specifications and accessories required by the customer.

## **Apex Lingerie Limited**

Apex Lingerie Limited (ALL) is a fully vertical setup specializing in the production of high quality intimate apparel. ALL is equipped to produce a wide range of brassieres, sports bras and swimwear based on the customer's and/or in-house styles and designs. Most of the raw materials; circular and warp knit, all over printed and yarn dyed fabrics, elastics, hook & eye tapes, molded fabric & foam, printed labels, embroidery, and placement print are all produced in-house. Items like the lace, under-wires, ring-slide and some accessories are imported. ALL has sixty six standardized sewing lines with a production capacity of about 1.8 to 2 million pieces of bra & bra-panty sets per month. ALL has an advanced design center researching the upcoming trends in colors, materials and designs to produce the collections for our customers to choose designs from. The design center also works with the customers and the R&D department to develop materials to enhance our in-house supply chain. ALL has been exporting to brands and retailers from Europe and North America for over fifteen years.

## **Apex Textile Printing Mills Limited**

Apex Textile Printing Mills Limited (ATPML) is a vertical setup to manufacture high quality knit garments, swimwear, and underwear for infants, children, and adults using in-house fabrics and elastics. Apex Textile Printing Mills is equipped to produce a wide range of solid dyed, yarn dyed and all-over printed fabrics using a variety of designs provided by the buyer and/or from ATPML's own design department. The in-house fabrics can be circular or warp knit in various compositions ranging from 100% cotton to nylon microfiber and gauges ranging from 28GG to 46GG. ATPML's in-house all over fabric printing department is equipped with state of the art printing, engraving and designing facilities to ensure our customers have access to highest quality prints. ATPML has thirty two lines dedicated to efficiently produce children and ladies knit garments with a total capacity of 1.7 to 1.8 million pieces per month. Another sixty six standardized lines are dedicated to produce swimwear and underwear with a total capacity of 3.6 to 4.0 million pieces per month.

### **Apex Yarn Dyeing Limited**

Apex Yarn Dyeing Limited (AYDL) started commercial production in January 2003 and presently has a production capacity of 4,200 MT per year. Apex Yarn Dyeing produces dyed cotton, Nylon, Polyester and Cotton-polyester blends yarn. AYDL also produces 14 million cones of Sewing & Embroidery thread per year for the export-oriented RMG industry in Bangladesh. All production at AYDL is of OEKO-TEX 100 Standard and ISO 9001:2000 certificated and fulfills all the requirements of BSTI. The scope of activities of the certification is that AYDL is dyeing and exporting 100% polyester and nylon sewing and embroidery thread and cotton, polyester, nylon and cotton-polyester blend yarn. AYDL is fully compliant with International Labor and Environmental Standards. Apex Yarn Dyeing safeguards the environment and fully treats all effluent.

### **Apex Fashion Wear Limited**

Apex Fashion Wear Limited (AFWL) is setup in a modern building over space of 900,000 square feet to manufacture 100% export quality Knit-garments using in-house fabrics for Infant & Children and ladies fashion wear. AFWL is equipped to produce using a wide range of fabrics, imported or sourced locally and using a variety of designs provided by the buyer and/or from our in house design team. Commercial operation will start from early 2018 with 40 sewing lines along with auxiliary facilities. AFWL has current production capacity of 5 million pieces of garments per year and gradually total capacity will increase to 120 million per year with vertical operations (fabrics, elastics, lace etc). AFWL Board of Directors follows ethical employment practices and adheres to all the National and International laws on labor employment and fully compliant with International Labor & Environmental Standards. Initiatives have been taken to introduce Industrial Engineering approach to enhance productivity and quality certifications to match global competitiveness. Apex provides a clean, safe and healthy working environment, fair labor practices and rewards our staff with wages set according to the Fair Wage Methodology and engage in collective bargaining with our independently established Trade Union. Apex has an onsite Day Care Center for the worker's infants/children and provides free medical care of all staff and workers.

## Facilities within Apex Holdings Limited:

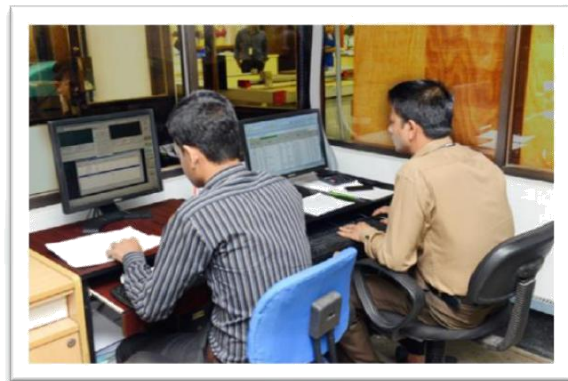
Apex is the combination of the four vertical garment operations along with Apex Yarn Dyeing Mills Limited. Most of the fabrics and other materials for garment production are manufactured within the Textile complex. Items like lace, under-wires, ring-slide and some special components are imported. Hangers, poly-bags, printed boxes, woven labels etc. are locally available.

### **Garment-making:**

Each of the four garments factories: ASKML, ALL, ATPML & AFWL are set up for independent garment production, starting from design, sample and pattern to garment finishing.

**Production Planning and Industrial Engineering:** All production for garments, fabric and trims are initiated and monitored from the planning cell. Once an order is confirmed the planning cell coordinates with each of the materials departments to ensure all required raw materials are procured for production. Then the planning software **Fast-React** is used to place the order in the sewing lines. Our in-house database and Fast-react are linked to provide real time information of an order and all its components. On top of working to optimize the efficiency and increase competitiveness of production the Industrial Engineering department works closely with the planning cell to ensure production is carried out according to plan with minimal amount of deviation.

**Sample, Pattern and design department:** The department is equipped with CAD (Lectra and/or Garber) systems for automated pattern making and anywhere from 60 to 80 sewing machines to produce samples according to customer's specifications and /or Apex's own designs. All samples are fitted on appropriate fitting-forms and on live models before sending to the customers to ensure the perfect fit. The sample room produces digitized patterns and production markers to ensure all styles are produced in the lines with optimum efficiency.



**Sections of sample, pattern & design department**

**Cutting department:** The cutting department for each of the sewing units is equipped with fabric inspection, relaxation, cutting tables along with straight knives and band knives. All

fabrics are inspected 100% before cutting and digital markers ensure minimum fabric wastage and optimum quality. The capacities of each cutting departments are carefully matched with the respective sewing capacities to ensure a smooth flow of input. All cut pieces are checked and prepared according to the bundle system before being feed into the lines.



**Cutting Department**

**Sewing department:** All the sewing lines are equipped with modern apparel machineries and attachments, and follow a standardized layout to ensure smooth workflow. The mechanical department is fully equipped with specialized attachment making and automation capabilities allowing faster production speeds with higher quality. The planning and industrial engineering departments work continuously to ensure efficient utilization of the sewing lines.



**Sewing floor**

**Finishing department:** Completed garments in size lots are cleaned of loose threads, dust etc. In a vacuum suction device, and steam ironed as required. Subsequently, the garments are transferred into an enclosed humidity controlled (air conditioned) room, where the garments are inspected and prepared for packing. After putting all packaging accessories, each piece is checked with a needle detector system before being sent into **the metal free zone** for final packaging. For all orders we maintain an internal AQL standard before customers or third party inspection.



**Sections of the finishing floor**

**Molding & Laminating:** In-house molding & laminating facilities utilized by Apex Lingerie Limited allow design flexibility and quicker lead time for our customers. The department is equipped with laminating, foam and fabric molding, and die-cutting to offer a complete solution for molded and soft bra cups. Foam molding Capacity: 52,000 pairs/day and fabric molding capacity: 80,000 pairs/day.



**Foam & fabric molding section**

**Hook & eye tape making:** Apex Lingerie Limited utilizes in-house hook & eye tape making facility for accurate color matching and quicker lead time. This section is equipped with fully automated Japanese machinery to produce both hook and eye tapes of up to 4 rows. The Hook & eye capacity is about 80,000 pieces/day.



**Hook & eye tape making**

## **Fabrics:**

The in-house fabric mill produces a large variety of fabrics using a wide range of fibers. To support the diverse garment operations both circular and warp knitting facilities have been set up. Over the years we have refined our technical abilities and able to offer our customers numerous compositions; 100% cotton, polyester, nylon, various blends and, micro-fibers, with or without spandex, yarn dyed or solid dyed.

## **Knitting:**

### **Circular knit:**

There are a total of 145 circular knitting machines, most equipped with Spandex attachments and extra-gauge cylinders to allow flexibility in production. Our total circular knit capacity stands at 35 metric tons per day with specific capacities listed below:

- Single Jersey / Pique: **Capacity/day:16,500 Kg**
- Interlock / drop needle: **Capacity/day: 6,000 Kg**
- Rib / drop needle rib: **Capacity/day: 6,000 Kg**
- Engineering stripe (6 colors): **Capacity/ day: 1,500 Kg**
- 3 thread fleece: **Capacity/day: 5,000 Kg**





**Sections of circular knitting department**

**Warp knit:** Fourteen warp knitting machines including yarn and elastane beam warping machines were purchased from Karl Mayer Germany to set up the facilities. **Tricot, Raschel** and **Simplex** fabrics, in many varieties, are supplied for lingerie, swimwear and active wear production. Our total warp knit capacity stands at 250,000 meters per month with individual capacities listed below:

- Tricot (from rigid to 30 % elastane); **Capacity: 150,000 meters / month**
- Raschel (from 5% to 35 % elastane); **Capacity: 70,000 meters / month**
- Simplex (up to 35% elastane) **Capacity : 30,000 meters / month**



**Elastane warping and warp knitting sections**

**Flat knit:** To ensure utmost quality nine Shima Seki flat knit machines were set up to produce fabrics for collars, cuffs and styling. The flat knit fabrics can be solid dyed or yarn dyed with a total **Capacity of 6,000 sets / day**

## Dyeing & Finishing

The Dyeing and finishing department is equipped with a wide range of machinery to accommodate the various compositions of fabrics used in our garments. The dyeing machines are suitable for **cotton and cotton blends, polyamide, polyester, viscose, and delicate synthetics**. The dyeing department is also equipped with fourteen sample dyeing machines to ensure a quick color matching and sample turnaround time.

The fabric finishing facilities are able to handle both open width and tubular fabrics. With a host of **compactors, dryers and stenters** we are able impart many specialized chemical finishes including; **enzyme, silicon, teflon coating, antimicrobial, real lasting cotton and cool comfort finish**. In addition to all the options for the chemical finishing, the department is equipped with mechanical finishing machines including **brushing, raising, shearing and peach finishing**. All fabric is subject to a 100% inspection before delivery to the garments unit. The total capacity of the facilities stands at 55 metric tons per day.



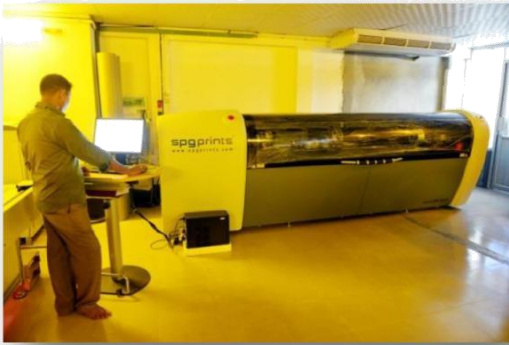
**Part of the dyeing department showing a section of the sample dyeing**



## All Over Printing:

To meet market demands that are constantly in flux, Apex has invested in all over fabric printing with a **total capacity of 50,000 meters/day**. The All Over Printing Section is equipped with two sets of **12-color Rotary Screen Printing Machine** and one set of **12-color Flat Bed Printing machine**. A Wide range of fabrics can be printed with **Reactive, Acid and Disperse dyes with regular & neon colors**. To ensure the sharpest print quality and shortest lead time the All Over Printing department has been auxiliaries such as ; fully equipped with **Sample and Strike off preparation, Digital Graphic Design System, Screen Preparation, Laser Engraving, Color Kitchen and Loop Steamer & after Print Washing**.

Screen preparation, sample printing and 12 color printing



## **Narrow fabrics:**

Keeping in line with our ambition to provide our customers with a complete solution for intimate apparel we have set up narrow fabric knitting and dyeing facilities. The narrow fabrics section is equipped with **needle loom, jacquard loom, crochet and rubber covering** machines to produce a wide range of elastic and non-elastic fabrics. The specific capacities are listed below:

- Rubber covering (double covering): **Capacity: 1200 Kg /day**
- Spandex covering (single covering): **Capacity: 540 Kg / day**
- Needle looms (without jacquard): **Capacity: 350,000 meters / day**
- Needle looms (Jacquard): **Capacity: 50,000 meters/day**
- Crochet: **Capacity: 60,000 meters / day**
- Narrow fabrics dyeing: **Capacity: 400,000 meters / day**



**Narrow fabric weaving, knitting & dyeing**

## **Yarn dyeing:**

In-house yarn dyeing facilities supply dyed yarn and sewing threads to all three garment production units. With a **capacity of 15 metric tons per day, cotton, polyester and nylon dyed yarn** is supplied for fabric production. **Spun and filament polyester, nylon and viscose sewing threads** are supplied at a **capacity of 45,000 cones/day** to ensure the 214 sewing lines in the complex are running smoothly.



### **Embroidery:**

Our approach to embroidery is catered around the buyer's specifications, therefore we ensure that all the customers' requirements are understood and implemented properly. Our embroidery department is set up to produce embroidered garments like **solid embroidery** using **9 color machines / Appliqué / Embroidery on print / Sequence / Cording / Boring** with a combined capacity of 15,00 pcs/day. The raw materials utilized in the embroidery are acquired from our in-house yarn dyeing facilities and laser applique cutting.

### **Placement printing:**

Placement printing capacity is 60,000 to 100,000 pieces / day, up to **6 colors** with manual and automated printing. The types of placement printing at Apex range from **Pigment / Discharge print, rubber print, glitter and flock print, heat set stone attachment, foil printing, high density printing** and **photo print**.



Sections of Placement printing department

### **Pad printing & label printing:**

In keeping with the need of the market, Apex has setup the facilities to print labels on label tapes as well as printing labels (particularly care labels on bra and underwear) on the body of the garments, using both pad printing machines or using transfer print labels. **Capacity: 200,000 labels / day**

## Washing plant:

The washing plant is equipped to wash knit garments with various additives, enzymes during wash and also during the drying cycle. **Capacity 25,000 pcs garment / day**



Section of the garment washing plant

## Quality control & Textile testing:

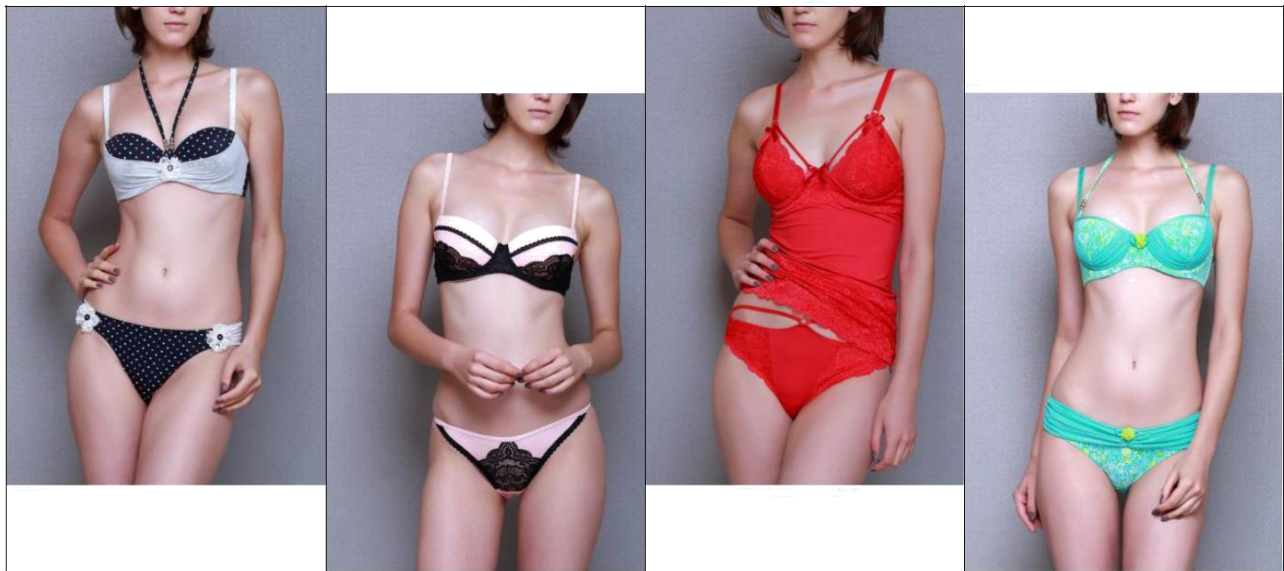
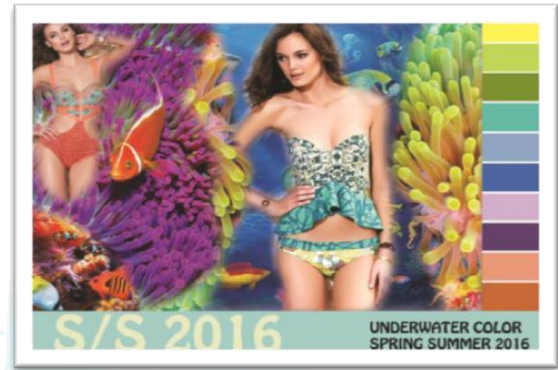
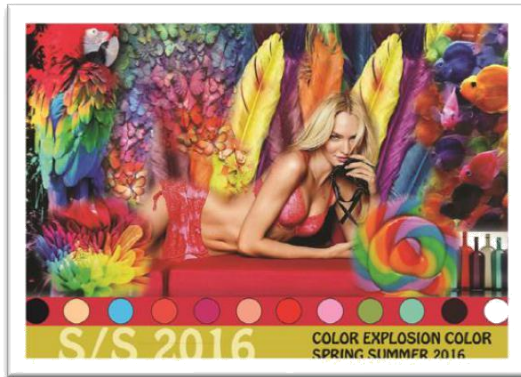
Quality is at the core of our business philosophy, we believe that only through focused attention and higher technical competency are we able to achieve a high standard of quality. Apex has constantly worked with a wide range of technical experts from Japan, Philippines, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka to improve the working and quality control procedures. Sewing technicians are continuously working with the operators and supervisors to upgrade their knowledge and awareness about quality standards and to optimize efficiency. The **QA department** carries out **100% inspections** at various stages of **fabric and garment production** to ensure the finished product meets the internal **AQL standard of 2.5**

Along with continuously improving the quality standards in our working procedure the **QA department** personnel also work with the in-house laboratory to conduct inspections of all raw materials and finished goods according to customer's standard. The **in house testing laboratory, accredited by H&M and DBA**, is fully equipped to carry out various testing including; **Fabric weight (density), yarn count and composition, spectral color matching, color fastness, shrinkage and dimensional stability, extension and modulus, formaldehyde and phenolic yellowing.**



## Design Centre

The design center was set up to incorporate material, print, pattern and product development into one location. The design center conducts research into upcoming trends in material, color and design to offer our customers the newest products. Using the trend forecasting capabilities new collections of lingerie, swimwear and active wear are created every season for our customers to choose from. Our team in the design center also works closely with the R&D department and customer's design teams to develop the materials and products perfectly suited to the customers' need.



## Environmental Responsibility

In everything we do, we are committed to reduce our impact on the environment. We have made investments in many areas of our business to strongly adhere to the philosophy of **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**. All of the waste heat from the generators and boilers are recycled to heat our dyeing process water and in the chillers to power the cooling systems. In collaboration with the IFC we have participated in the **PaCT project** to improve our resource efficiency. Along with modern chemical management practices to reduce overall chemical use, we have also worked to ensure all chemicals used comply with the Detox and Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemical programs. **Energy meters** have been installed at various locations to monitor over all energy use, and **frequency inverters** and **LED lights** have been installed to reduce total energy consumption. Our water monitoring department works closely with the wet processing units to meet the standards set forth by **STWI**. Water flow meters and **closed loop cycles** have been installed to reduce the total water consumption. Apex was one of the first textile composite factories to have an effluent treatment plant (ETP). The new **biological Central ETP** is able to handle **8 million liters/day** with a total **HRT of 100 hours**, and is designed with provisions for **zero discharge** in the future.



## Social Welfare

At Apex we take proactive steps to include advanced social practices in our business operations so that our people and communities can benefit from working in an enjoyable and friendly surrounding. This plays a fundamental role in the way we want to do business and is an important part of our successful business strategy. Moreover, this strategy has been extremely successful in building a healthy and cooperative relationship with our customers, employees and surrounding communities. Through coordinated efforts from across all departments' at all organizational levels; we are able to provide the best possible facilities to our workforce:

- Medical Centre with full time doctor and nurses.
- Day-care center staffed with certified child caregivers.
- Dining hall and canteen wherein employees can have their lunch and snacks.
- Separated prayer rooms for men and women.
- Safe drinking water dispensers available throughout the factory premises.



- Timely payment of compensation and benefit.
- Eid Bonus during two festival holidays
- Yearly picnic for all employees as part of a team building activity.
- Female welfare officers providing consultancy and employee awareness.
- Training programs for sewing operators, helpers and quality inspectors.
- Provident fund facility.



### **Executing an order:**

To initiate business with any of the factories of Apex, we recommend contacting the merchandising team and arranging a visit to our facilities. In addition, we can work from a customer's sample, sketches with complete measurement chart, or samples from our own collections after which our merchandising department can give the costing and send sample garments as soon as possible. Typically an order can be made ready for shipment in **30-90 days** depending on approvals of the customer and material import. Once an order is confirmed, upon receiving the export **Letter of Credit** or **Sales Contract**, Apex's merchandising and commercial department issues purchase orders for the required raw materials. Once all raw materials are in house and quality is ensured, garments are produced according to order specifications maintaining Apex's standards. All shipments are under trade terms of **FCA Bangladesh by boat** or **FOB Dhaka by air**.

Brands and Retailers working with Apex

