



Association Des Industries d'Haiti

Pétion-Ville, November 10, 2021

**Mr. Christian Aimé
EVEREST APPAREL S.A**

Dear Member,

As you are no doubt aware, a letter dated November 5th, 2021 has been sent by 15 Members of the U.S. Congress to 62 U.S. buyers of apparel from Haiti asking them to determine whether their supplying factory has been making the required social welfare contributions for the last two years, and if not how that situation will be remedied. The letter asks each U.S. company receiving it to reply to the Congress by December 1st, 2021. (See attached copy of the letter that was sent to the buyers).

The Association des Industries d'Haiti (ADIH) takes this opportunity to remind all factories operating in the apparel sector of their obligations with regard to these social welfare programs. These obligations include payroll-based contributions under the programs administered by the Office National d'Assurance Vieillesse (ONA) and the Office of Occupational Accident Insurance, Sickness and Maternity (OFATMA).

Every factory must register all workers with these programs, which are funded by payroll contributions based on the earnings of each worker. The ONA pension program and the health maternity contributions must be made monthly. The occupational accident insurance contribution can be made on an annual basis.

Under no circumstances may an employer make payroll deductions from workers for any such programs and not provide the contributions on the required monthly schedule to ONA or OFATMA.

If any factory is currently in arrears or otherwise in non-compliance with ONA or OFATMA and is not in a position to resolve the situation immediately, ADIH will attempt to assist the factory in working out a schedule of payments or other relevant assistance to become current under a time-bound plan with ONA and OFATMA. Any factory that needs such assistance is encouraged to contact the Executive Director of ADIH, no later than Friday November 19, 2021 with the expectation for a negotiated resolution with ONA and/or OFATMA being completed no later than Friday November 26, 2021.

Sorini, Samet Associates LLC is registered as an agent on behalf of the Government of Haiti through L'Association des Industries d'Haïti. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

7, rue Frank Cardozo, Villa Nelly, Apt 805, Pétion-Ville, Haïti – B.P. 15199

Tel : (509) 2946-1211 / 3776-1211 – www.adih.ht – administration@adih.ht



Association Des Industries d'Haiti

If a factory does not contact ADIH by COB Friday November 26th 2021, it will be understood by ADIH that such factory is in full compliance with ONA and OFATMA obligations.

ADIH again reminds each factory that U.S. buyers have been asked to respond to the U.S. Congress by December 1st on the payment status of their supplying factory in the Republic of Haiti, so if you need support from ADIH to address any arrears or non-compliance issue, we encourage you to do so well before that date.

At a time when ADIH is working diligently to seek a ten-year extension of the HOPE-HELP program in the United States Congress, the failure of some factories to meet their ONA and OFATMA obligations represents a major impediment to progress in that effort.

Sincerely,

Wilhelm Lemke

President



7, rue Frank Cardozo, Villa Nelly, Apt 805, Pétion-Ville, Haïti – B.P. 15199

Tel : (509) 2946-1211 / 3776-1211 – www.adih.ht – administration@adih.ht