

BGA/TFC/2026/১১৭

24 August, 2026

To: All Honorable Members of BGMEA**Subject: Continuation of Duty-Free Market Access in UK After LDC Graduation Under UK-DCTS.**

We are pleased to forward the attached letter received from the British High Commission, Dhaka, dated 18 August 2026, reaffirming UK market access for Bangladesh under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) following our LDC graduation.

The letter confirms that duty-free market access to the UK will continue after Bangladesh's graduation from LDC. As per the UK's DCTS scheme, after graduation Bangladesh will move into the 'DCTS Enhanced Preferences' tier, where duty-free access for garment items will remain unchanged, and the 'Rules of Origin' will continue as 'single-stage transformation'.

Therefore, we encourage you to engage with your UK-based customers to make the most of this continued preferential access, and to explore further opportunities for diversification and growth in the UK market.

Thanking you,



Maj Gen Dr. Md. Shahedul Islam (retd)
Secretary General

Attachment:

1. Letter from the British High Commission, Dhaka, dated 18 August 2026.

BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

• বাংলাদেশ তৈরি •



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18 August 2026

Mahmud Hasan Khan

The President,
The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)

Dear Sir,

Building on the discussions at the recent roundtable on the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme ([DCTS](#)), co-hosted with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), I am writing to reaffirm that the UK market will remain open to exporters after Bangladesh graduates from Least Developed Country (LDC) status.

Currently, Bangladesh benefits from tariff-free access on 99.8% of goods exported to the UK under the DCTS. When Bangladesh graduates there will be a three-year transition period, during which market access will remain unchanged.

Following this, Bangladesh will move directly into the Enhanced Preferences tier of the DCTS, where **92% of goods** will continue to be eligible for duty-free access. **This does not require renegotiation with the UK, giving businesses the confidence and certainty to plan for the future.**

This is particularly positive news for Bangladesh's garment sector. Market access for garments (chapter 61 and 62) will remain unchanged under Enhanced Preferences, while the [UK's updated Rules of Origin](#) mean garment exporters will retain the same flexible rules they benefit from today, including no requirement for double transformation. We have also given exporters greater flexibility to source inputs from a wider range of countries while still qualifying for preferential access to the UK market.

We would be grateful if you could share the above information with your members to raise awareness of the UK's market access offer, both now and following LDC graduation. The British High Commission will continue to work closely with the Government of Bangladesh, business associations and exporters to maximise awareness and utilisation of DCTS. As part of this effort, we are partnering with the EPB to deliver a series of practical workshops on DCTS for exporters and trade stakeholders over the coming months.

The UK remains committed to deepening the UK-Bangladesh trade and investment partnership and supporting the country's continued economic growth and development.

Yours sincerely,

James Goldman
Deputy High Commissioner and Development Director
British High Commission Dhaka