

Circular No. - Fire and Safety/53/2023

21 March, 2023

To all Hon'ble Members

Subject: Concerning the implementation of urgent measures to avoid the risk of explosions in air conditioning (AC) and gas pipelines.

Dear colleague,

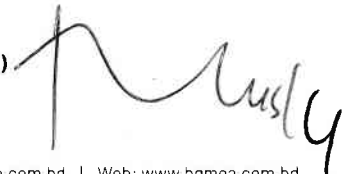
BGMEA is expressing deep concern over several recent explosions which have caused the loss of many lives. It is generally assumed that these explosions are taking place in the air conditioners and gas lines installed in the buildings. The issue is of concern to BGMEA as air conditioning and gas usage are present in garment factories. Given the high number of workers/employees in garment factories, there is a risk of injuries to workers/employees in such accidents. As the winter season has passed, the temperature of the environment rises, thus increasing the demand for AC. If proper caution is not exercised, the abrupt activation of the air conditioner after several days of being disconnected can lead to a severe explosion and casualties. Boilers and gas lines used in factories can also cause explosions. As the temperature rises, so does the risk. In order to avoid any kind of unfortunate incidents, it is specially requested to take the following precautions while using AC, boiler and gas in factories and workplace:

1. Before using any AC, it should be serviced and tested by a qualified technician. If required, proper servicing should be done before use.
2. When using an AC, make sure to use a standard power cord and avoid using extension cords. Also, ensure that a quality circuit breaker is in place.
3. The condenser and filter of the AC should be cleaned regularly.
4. High temperature and pressure of the AC compressor should be checked regularly.
5. Check if there is any leakage in the internal pipes of the AC.
6. The right refrigerant should be used in the correct manner. Additionally, it is important to ensure that the compressor has the necessary refrigerant and not to charge more than the allowed limit.
7. Ensure the correct tonnage of air conditioning is installed for the size of the room, and keep the doors and windows shut when the air conditioning is in operation.
8. Do not use substandard cables, wiring, plugs, sockets etc. for AC. In addition, during voltage surges, storms, heavy lightning and thunder or whether unwanted noise arise, the AC should be shut off immediately.
9. When purchasing an AC, it is advisable to select a reputed and dependable brand.

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Following precautions should be taken while using the boiler:

1. Electrical and gas connections and lines to the boiler should be checked by an experienced technician regularly.
2. All inlets and outlets of the boiler should be checked regularly.
3. The gas used in the boiler should be kept at an appropriate compression level.
4. The defective and outdated boilers should be replaced immediately.
5. When purchasing a new boiler, it is important to buy one that is steadfast and reliable.
6. Only experienced and trained operators should be allowed to operate the boilers in the factory.

Considering the safety of officers/employees working in the factories and offices as well as the safety of properties, we specially request you to take the above mentioned safety measures. Your cooperation in this regard is highly anticipated.

Thanking you,


Faruque Hassan
President

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