A customised FileMaker solution for iOS – created in just three weeks – reduced reporting time by as much as 50 percent, enabling the inspecting organisation to meet its mandated timetable. The goal was to identify the most severe fire and safety threats so that they could be rectified quickly, potentially saving lives.

Hughes Associates of Baltimore, Maryland, conducted the factory inspections under contract to The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh. Hughes is a leader in fire protection and life safety, risk and hazard analysis, and code-compliance assessment.

Said Brian Rhodes, Hughes’ director for codes and standards: “We didn't have time to report using handwritten notes and disjointed photos. We needed much more efficiency and consistency to handle a task this large in such a short time frame. I don't believe that we could have completed this critical project on time and within budget without our FileMaker solution.”

FileMaker developer Anvil Dataworks worked with Hughes to develop a custom solution that enabled inspectors to collect data, including photographs, transmit the data to offices worldwide, and generate reports – all from a single mobile tool. The detailed inspection reports are used to alert factory owners of deficiencies in building safety and fire protection and to provide guidance in corrective action plans. The solution was created using FileMaker Pro 13, FileMaker Server 13 and FileMaker Go for iPad.