

ENHANCING FIRE SAFETY IN TOWN CENTRE

荷兰一武吉班让市镇会推出商店防火安全守则

林妙娜●报道

去年1月，一场大火烧毁武吉班让万吉路一带7家商店及摆在店前或走廊的摆货架及杂物。

这起商店火患去年1月20日凌晨1时发生在万吉路第260座组屋。火患相信是电线短路引起，但摆在走廊上的杂物导致火势一发不可收拾，迅速蔓延。火患发生后，受影响的店主只好在附近临时搭建的帐篷继续营业7个月。

去年共有42起涉及店前和走廊陈列商品及货物的火患。为避免这类火患卷土重来，荷兰一武吉班让市镇理事会推出防火安全守则，加强店主的安全意识，同时限制店面和走廊商品陈列空间，确保逃生之路通畅无阻。

荷兰一武吉班让市镇会和民防部队携手拟定商店防火安全守则，涵盖范围包括走廊商品陈列及帐篷的设置。防火安全守则规定：

- 店前走廊必须宽1.5米，不得有任何阻碍
- 店前必须保留至少一米宽的行走空间
- 不得把商品或摆设架于摆在走廊过窄



Lianhe Zaobao 27 April 07 Fri
摆放在走廊上的究竟是吸引顾客的商品，还是可能引发火患、阻挡逃生之路的危险物？

·不得在楼梯3米范围内摆放商品
·不得把商店前的空间围起来
·店外商品陈列范围宽度不能超过3米
·只有建屋发展局认可的生意才能在店前陈列区进行
荷兰一武吉班让市镇会主席及西北区区长张俐宾博士昨天早上到万吉路一带，向店主推广防火安全意识。

他说：“售卖不同商品的商店有不同陈设商品的需求。例如售卖女性手提袋的商店，喜欢把货品挂在电线或电网上，其实不安全。”
防火安全人员将向店主解释防火安全守则，并提出安全摆设商品的建议。
荷兰一武吉班让市镇会管辖范围内有381间商店和18家咖啡店。市镇会将派前民防部队人员检查邻里商店，确保店主遵守规定。
目前，这个市镇会平均每月发出15封警告信和5张罚单。在市镇会法令下，初次违例者可

面对100元罚款，重犯者可面对最高罚款400元。
张俐宾也希望通过防火安全守则把良好的购物文化带到邻里购物区。他说：“日本的零售商店布置美观，也能保持店面整洁。”
在店外陈列的商品虽可能引发火患、阻挡逃生之路的危险物件，但对店主来说，这是吸引顾客上门的方法，而且他们陈列的都是主要商品。
多数受访店主对新守则表示欢迎，不过，

他们也担心顾客看不到琳琅满目的商品，就不会买东西，影响生意。
廉价商店店员杨富成说：“我们有不少顾客是上巴刹买东西后顺道而来的。如果不能够把东西摆在店外，我们可卖的东西就得减少。”
黄瑞丽在第260座开设的祭礼用品店在去年火患中受到殃及，她过后尽量在店前摆放陈设商品。她说，她会尽力配合市镇会要求，但也希望市镇会能灵活处理店家陈列商品的做法。



Checks at HDB shops to reduce fire hazards

By SUJIN THOMAS

THE Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council will be carrying out regular checks on about 400 shop units and eating houses starting next month to enforce fire safety regulations.

With the help of officers from the Cooperative of Singapore Civil Defence Employees (Cosem), the private arm of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), the council will drive home the importance of keeping common passageways free of clutter.

They will conduct regular checks on the 381 shop units and 18 eating houses in Bukit Panjang, Zhenghua, Ulu Pandan, Buona Vista, Cashew and Bukit Timah.

The new programme was announced by the council's chairman, Dr Teo Ho Pin, at a press conference held yesterday.

Dr Teo said: "The key point is that we ensure fire safety for shoppers and shop owners."

Cosem was formed in 2005 and provides services such as consultancy, fire safety enforcement and training. It is made up of about 2,000 former SCDF officers.

They will target owners whose goods might obstruct people's escape routes in the event of a fire.

For instance, a minimum walk-

ing space of 1.5m must be maintained between shop fronts and goods displayed outside. At least a metre's walking space must also be maintained between two areas of goods displayed outside and goods are not to be placed within three metres of common staircases.

Currently, yellow floor strips mark out these designated areas.

First-time offenders will be warned. Those who continue to flout the rule will be fined between \$100 and \$400.

The programme is aimed at reducing the number of fires in HDB shophouses due to flammable items like planks and boxes being piled together. Other districts have similar programmes, but this is the first involving Cosem.

Last year, 42 fires occurred at HDB shophouses, including one in Bukit Panjang where seven shophouses were gutted in a pre-dawn blaze.

During a walk around a Bukit Panjang estate, many shop owners voiced their concerns to Dr Teo.

"There will be many different requests from shop owners, but I hope to get their support and cooperation on this," Dr Teo said.

Enforcing the rules might be an uphill struggle, though. Yesterday, once the walkabout was over, many owners were seen pushing their goods back outside the designated areas.



The Straits Times, 27th April 2007, Friday

PHOTO: ALAN LIM

MAKING IT SAFER

"The key point is that we ensure fire safety for shoppers and shop owners."

DR TEO HO PIN on stricter enforcement of rules which dictate a minimum walking space along common areas (above).

42 blazes at HDB shophouses last year

THE programme is aimed at reducing the number of fires in HDB shophouses as a result of flammable items like planks and boxes being piled together.

Last year, 42 fires occurred at HDB shophouses in Singapore, including one in Bukit Panjang where seven shophouses were gutted in a pre-dawn blaze.

First-time offenders will be warned. Those who continue to flout the rule will be fined between \$100 and \$400.