

Good to have Smoking Zones in Public Buildings

The Straits Times Forum Online Story (January 22, 2013)

LOGICALLY, the proposal to have smoking zones makes perfect sense (““Create smoking zones in public buildings””; last Friday).

Smoking zones - like those already present in public buildings, army camps and military training institutes - clearly demarcate where smoking is permissible. Such unambiguity helps smokers and non-smokers alike.

Smokers will be more cognisant of these designated smoking areas and more likely to comply with the regulations. Also, they would have to worry less about whether they may be breaking the law if they light up in a particular area.

Non-smokers will enjoy the benefits of cleaner air, know precisely which areas to avoid and be more confident when they report smoking transgressions.

Infrastructural limitations are a poor justification for refusing to establish more smoking areas in shopping malls and offices.

Administrators or building managers could work closely with the National Environment Agency to determine how the zones can be marked out.

Correspondingly, ashtrays and rubbish bins can be placed in these areas to ensure proper disposal of cigarette butts.

If outdoor options are genuinely lacking, smoking rooms can be created within the building for the same purpose.

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