

# Display hygiene awards prominently

I refer to last Wednesday's report, "Market, hawker centre at Sim's Place are OK", on the Singapore's OK (SOK) seal of approval being awarded to a food centre following the relaunch of the National Environment Agency's hygiene campaign.

This should encourage the stallholders to serve healthy food in clean surroundings, and the customers to keep the food centre clean by not littering or leaving a mess behind them.

However, I would like to suggest that such hygiene awards – including the certificates showing stalls' A, B, C or D ratings for cleanliness – display, in large print, the dates on which they are awarded and the validity period.

These certificates should also be

displayed prominently. At present, many such hygiene ratings are half-hidden behind stall fixtures, and some stallholders do not display any grades at all.

I suggest hawkers be made to display their grades at the same position in all stalls – for instance, the top left-hand corner of the stall fronts.

The SOK campaign, which first started in response to the 2003 Sars outbreak, seems to have been neglected until recently.

This is a pity because it is a useful sign to assure residents and tourists that a food centre is clean.

In some food centres, you can even find SOK stickers which are badly streaked, or torn, on the walls of the toilets.

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