

## **My Paper**

August 12, 2009

### **Make window grilles mandatory in condos**

Raymund Koh Joo Guan

The case of the three-year old Korean boy who survived a fall from his ninth-storey condominium unit on Monday should serve as a reminder to condominium dwellers that their floor-to-ceiling glass windows are very dangerous if no grilles are fitted.

I have visited many relatives and friends who live in condominiums and observed that their apartments do not have parapet walls. In their place are tall glass panels, for aesthetic reasons.

While it may look nice to have such designs, it is extremely dangerous when occupants have little children around.

The lower glass panels are just ordinary glass which would not break a fall and may even give way on impact.

What if a child riding on a kiddy bike rams into a glass pane? I shudder to imagine the consequences.

It would be to the best interests of everyone to legislate the fitting of grilles if there is no parapet wall of at least 1m in height.

I hope that the Building and Construction Authority would look into this safety issue in condominiums immediately.

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## **My Paper**

August 17, 2009

### **Safety at home**

Mr Chin Jen Chyi  
Deputy Director, Exterior Features Department  
Building and Construction Authority

We refer to Mr Raymund Koh's letter "Make window grilles mandatory in condos" (My Paper, 12 August).

Our building regulations require external walls, including glass panel barriers and parapet walls, to be designed for impact loads which are similar to those prescribed in international building codes.

Homeowners may install additional measures, such as window grilles, to make their homes safer. We agree with Mr Koh that families with young children may wish to consider such precautionary measures to further enhance the safety of the children.

We thank Mr Koh for his feedback.