

## 'Conduct fire safety audit every 10 years'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Building owners should conduct a fire safety audit every 10 years, says the Fire and Rescue Department.

Its director-general Datuk Seri Wan Mohd Nor Ibrahim said 10 years was recommended as it was the duration practised worldwide.

"Building owners can appoint third-party consultants to conduct the safety inspections, and they will notify the Fire and Rescue Department if the building is safe or not," he said during the pre-launch of the 2018 International Fire Conference and Exhibition (IFCEM 2018) here.

Wan Mohd Nor was commenting on the fire that damaged the Employees Provident Fund office in Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya, on Feb 13.

The fire spread swiftly because of the cladding, which was made of flammable polystyrene foam. The cladding, a newer fixture to the building's exterior, did not adhere to safety standards.

Wan Mohd Nor said his department ensured that the process to obtain a Certificate of Fitness (CF) was done stringently and in accordance with international standards.

"We have to ensure our buildings

are certified according to international standards. We will not compromise on this.

"However, many building owners make renovations much later but do not seek certification."

Earlier, in his speech, Wan Mohd Nor said the IFCEM 2018, to be held on March 27 to 29, would gather some 1,500 participants, including firefighters from all over the world.

The participants, he said, would discuss fire safety management, new technologies and other issues relating to firefighting and disaster management.