

### **Vendor Selection and Walking Protocol - China**

#### **Vendor Selection:**

We pre-determined 5 different vendor types for China in consultation with partners and taking into account GATS/Euromonitor data. Vendor types are: (1) independent small grocery, (2) tobacco specialty, (3) street vendor, and (4) hypermarket, and (5) vape store. For vendor type #5 (vape store), there are 2 sub vendor types: (1) brand store (e.g., RELX, YOOZ, SNOWPLUS, MOTI, etc.) (#5-1), (2) non-brand name store (#5-2). Data collectors will need to visit each vendor type with the following steps:

Data collectors will proceed to the first neighborhood in a given city. In each city, a purchase should be made from each vendor type #1 to #4 at least twice and #5-2 at least one time. Data collectors will aim to make a purchase from each vendor type in the neighborhood through this method:

#### **Cigarettes and HTPs collection:**

1. In City 1, Neighborhood 1 (always middle SES area), a purchase will be made from vendor type #1
  - a. Neighborhood 2, look for and purchase from vendor types #2, #3, or #4
  - b. Neighborhood 3, look for and purchase from any of the vendor types except type #1 and the vendor type from neighborhood 2
  - c. Neighborhood 4, look for and purchase from any of the vendor types, but not the vendor type in the previous neighborhood
  - d. Neighborhood 5, if a purchase has not been made from all four vendor types, then look for and make a purchase from a remaining vendor type; if a purchase has been made at all four vendor types, then look for and purchase from any of the four vendor types, but not the vendor type from the previous neighborhood
    - i. If a new pack cannot be found at this vendor, then look for and purchase from any of the four vendor types, but not the vendor type from the previous neighborhood
  - e. Neighborhood 6, apply the same steps as neighborhood 5
  - f. Neighborhood 7, apply the same steps as neighborhood 5
  - g. Neighborhood 8, apply the same steps as neighborhood 5
  - h. Neighborhood 9, if a purchase has not been made from all four vendor types TWICE, then look for and make a purchase from a remaining vendor type; if a purchase has been made at all four vendor types TWICE, then look for and purchase from any of the four vendor types, but not the vendor type from the previous neighborhood
    - i. If a new pack cannot be found at this vendor, then look for and purchase from any of the four vendor types, but not the vendor type from the previous neighborhood
  - i. Neighborhood 10, apply the same steps from neighborhood 9
  - j. Neighborhood 11, apply the same steps from neighborhood 9

- k. Neighborhood 12, apply the same steps from neighborhood 9
2. This entire method should be repeated, starting from the beginning in Cities 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
3. Data collectors should observe whether there are e-cigarettes for sale in each cigarette vendor store visited and purchase them in unique packs if available.

**E-cigarettes collection:**

1. In City 1, Neighborhood 1 (always middle SES area), a purchase will be made from the first vape store came across;
  - a. Neighborhood 2, look for and purchase from a vape store different from the one visited in Neighborhood 1
    - i. If visit a #5-1 store in Neighborhood 1, visit either a #5-2 store or a #5-1 store with a different brand name from the store visit in Neighborhood 1
    - ii. If visit a #5-2 store in Neighborhood 1, visit either a #5-1 or a #5-2 store
    - iii. If the required vendor type (e.g., a #5-2 store) is not found after approximately 15 minutes of walking, identify any vape store around and make a purchase from the first one that data collectors see.
  - b. Neighborhood 3, if a purchase hasn't been made in a #5-2 store, look for and purchase from a #5-2 store; otherwise, look for and purchase from a #5-1 store different from the one visited in Neighborhood 2
    - i. If the required vendor type (e.g., a #5-2 store) is not found after approximately 15 minutes of walking, identify any vape store around and make a purchase from the first one that data collectors see.
  - c. Neighborhood 4, apply the same steps as neighborhood 3
  - d. Neighborhood 5, apply the same steps as neighborhood 3
  - e. Neighborhood 6, apply the same steps as neighborhood 3
  - f. Neighborhood 7, apply the same steps as neighborhood 3
  - g. Neighborhood 8, apply the same steps as neighborhood 3
  - h. Neighborhood 9, apply the same steps as neighborhood 3
  - i. Neighborhood 10, apply the same steps as neighborhood 3
  - j. Neighborhood 11, apply the same steps from neighborhood 3
  - k. Neighborhood 12, apply the same steps from neighborhood 3
2. This entire method should be repeated, starting from the beginning in Cities 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
3. Data collectors should observe whether there are HTPs for sale in each vape store visited and purchase them in unique packs if available.

**Walking Protocol:**

1. Arrive at the "hub" identified for the neighborhood. Go to the main entrance or central location of the hub and face towards the street with your back to the hub. The hub is the starting point for the walking protocol and will not serve as a place from which to purchase packs.

2. With your back to the hub, scan the immediate vicinity. If a required vendor type **is** seen, follow instructions in section A. If a required vendor type is **not** seen with your back to the hub, follow instructions in section B.
  - A. If a required vendor type is seen, go to that vendor. If you see more than one of the required vendor types, go to the one on the right.  
[If a unique pack is not found at this vendor, exit the vendor and with your back to the vendor entrance, turn right and start walking in search of a vendor (see section B).]
  - B. If you do not see a required vendor type, or if a unique pack is not found from the starting point or the “hub”, turn right and start walking, looking for the required vendor type(s) as you go. Look on both sides of the street as you are walking and stop at the first outlet seen that meets the required vendor type definition. If the required vendor type is not found after walking for 5 minutes in this direction, turn right at the next intersection and walk for another 5 minutes. If the required vendor type is not found after walking for 5 minutes on this road, turn right again at the next intersection and walk for another 5 minutes. If the required vendor type is still not found (after approximately 15 minutes of walking), identify any of the other vendor types and make a purchase from the first one that you see. At this point, you may backtrack to make a purchase. Turn around and start walking back to the hub and purchase from the first vendor you see.
3. Once data has been collected from the designated vendor type, proceed to the next neighborhood on the list, and repeat the walking protocol for the next vendor types starting from the hub location.

**Note:**

While following the walking protocol to find unique cigarette packs, data collectors should observe whether there are HTPs and e-cigarettes for sale in each cigarette vendor store visited and purchase them in unique packs if available. However, the availability and purchase of these products will NOT dictate steps taken in this walking protocol for cigarette collection.