

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

DEAN A. LERNER, DIRECTOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

April 8, 2009

Dear Mr. Rupprecht,

Director Tom Newton of the Iowa Department of Public Health referred your letter dated April 3, 2009 to me for a response. In your letter you asked if Iowa had any laws that require patrons in food establishments to wear shoes or other footwear.

Our agency is responsible for the licensing and inspections of all food establishments in Iowa. We have adopted the 2005 FDA Food Code by reference. This Code addresses food safety and sanitation issues within these establishments. It does address the hygienic practices of food handlers, however, it does not address any requirements related to what the customers wear or don't wear. This is left entirely to the food managers of each establishment. Therefore the bottom line is that even though we often see signs in restaurants that say "no shoes no shirt no service by order of the Health Department", I know of no such law. You may view the 2005 Food Code on our website at the following address: <http://www.dia.iowa.gov/page3.html>

Sincerely,



Judy Harrison
Food and Consumer Safety Bureau Chief