



## Texas Department of Health

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Carol S. Daniels  
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Roy L. Hogan  
Deputy Commissioner for Administration

July 8, 1997

Dear Mr. Shakely:

We have received your letter requesting information concerning Health Department regulations which restrict consumers from entering food service establishments or retail food stores with bare feet.

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) Rules on Food Service Sanitation and Retail Food Store Sanitation do not address the issue of requiring patrons to wear shoes before entering these establishments. However, the Rules do stipulate dress requirements for employees who engage in food preparation activities.

Home-rule cities in Texas may have requirements which are more stringent than those of TDH. As such, these cities may impose more stringent Rules prohibiting patrons with bare feet from entering food service establishments or retail food stores. Additionally, food service establishments and retail food stores may implement policies restricting patrons from entering their facilities with bare feet if they so desire, however, this is not a requirement by TDH.

If we may be of further assistance or answer any questions please call Shannon W. Yarbrough, Field Operations and Enforcement Branch at (512) 719-0232.

Sincerely,

Steven C. McAndrew, Director  
Retail Foods Division

cc: All Public Health Regions