



Utah Department of Health

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JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
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April 20, 2009

Ryan D. Whitaker

Dear Mr. Whitaker,

Thank you for your question regarding requirements for patrons to wear shoes or other footwear.

Your question: *Does the Health Department of Utah have any laws, codes, or regulations requiring patrons in restaurants, retail establishments, grocery stores, etc., to wear shoes or other footwear?*

The Utah Dept. of Health rule regarding food safety is R392-100, Food Service Sanitation. This rule is based on the FDA 2005 food code, and is in force for food service facilities (restaurants, deli's, commercial kitchens) in the state. In this rule, there is no reference or requirement for patrons to wear footwear in food service facilities. The rule regulates the establishment, not the patrons. Owners of these facilities, as is their right, often require patrons to wear footwear when in their facility.

I contacted the Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food as they regulate grocery stores in the state. They do not have a regulation or requirement for patrons to wear footwear in grocery stores. The store owners, as do restaurant owners, may require patrons to wear footwear in their store.

As a note to assist you in your research, there are occupational and safety rules under Utah Occupational Safety and Health (801) 530-6855 requiring employees of restaurants to wear footwear that protects them from injury or when using chemicals, such as soap, to clean floors. If your research concerns employees as well as patrons, you may want to contact them to further your research.

Thanks again for your question.

Sincerely,

Teresa Garrett, RS, MS