

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Joe Leean
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH
1 WEST WILSON STREET
P. O. BOX 309
MADISON WI 53701-0309

June 18, 1997

Dear Mr. Shakely:

You inquired as to the existence of health codes requiring that shoes be worn in food establishments. The State of Wisconsin has no regulation which specifically requires that shoes must be worn by employees or patrons in restaurants and retail food establishments. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services' Administrative Code, HFS 196.10 (4) (d), does specifically state that "employees shall maintain a high degree of cleanliness and shall conform to good hygienic practices during all working periods in the food service establishments." No other references relating to your question are made in our regulations. I suspect that various health department jurisdictions or business operators may interpret the lack of footwear as an improper hygienic practice and a safety concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Chapin".

John Chapin
Interim Administrator