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Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

May 19, 2017

RE: California food safety regulations

Dear Mr. Sands,

My apologies if your inquiry about the regulations, codes, laws, or any other specific requirements that would require customers or patrons of a business to wear shoes or other footwear while inside restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, or other businesses was not answered clearly.

As I stated in the April 17, 2017 correspondence, the California Retail Food Code addresses health and safety issues on food safety and facility requirements to maintain adequate a safe food environment and food handling practices. Since being barefoot while dining is not consider a factor in maintaining a safe food environment or food handling practices, it is not addressed under the food safety regulations. Requiring patrons/customers to wear shoes or other customer practices that do not affect food safety are completely at the discretion of the food facility management.

I hope this clears up your confusion about the California Health and Safety food safety regulations and the issue of dining barefoot.

Respectfully,

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