

May 16, 2017

Dear Mr. Sands

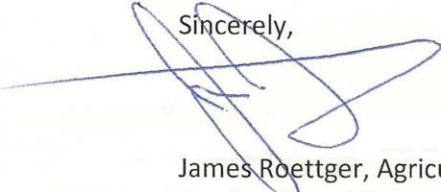
Thank you for your question concerning footwear use in food establishments in Minnesota by patrons.

I did a thorough search of the Minnesota Food Code, MN Rules Chapter 4626, concerning footwear requirements of customers in restaurants and grocery stores in Minnesota. As you may know, this is the primary rule used in regulating both restaurants and groceries in Minnesota. While this rule would require the wearing of clean footwear by an employee, there is **no similar such requirements for a patron.**

Please understand that while the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture share this rule, each agency may interpret it differently. We at the Department of Agriculture in no way speak for the Department of Health concerning this issue since restaurants are not under our jurisdiction and questions about potential restrictions in restaurants should be directed to the Minnesota Department of Health.

If you have any further question please contact me at 651-201-6622 or james.roettger@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



James Roettger, Agricultural Consultant
Food and Feed Safety Division.

Cc: Dr. Ben Miller, PhD, RS, Director
Jeff Luedeman, RS, Retail Food Program Manager
Carrie Rigdon, PhD, Supervisor RTO unit
Steven Diaz, RS, Minnesota Department of Health