



State of Utah

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Utah Department of Health
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Executive Director

Disease Control and Prevention
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Division Director

October 25, 2018

Dear Mr. Sands,

We received your request for assistance with your research into laws or regulations requiring customers or patrons to wear shoes or other footwear in restaurants or other types of businesses and will be happy to help in any way we can. The rules for sanitation for Utah fall under Title R392, which consist of 21 rules covering standards for sanitation in public places.

<https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r392/r392.htm>

Generally, these set standards for the sanitary operation and maintenance of public places, applicable to the operators and owners of such, not the patrons. There are no rules in Title R392 which would require patrons to wear shoes or other footwear. There are portions of these rules which address employee clothing, such as Section 2-304.11 of the 2013 Food Code, adopted by reference in R392-100, which states, "food employees shall wear clean outer clothing to prevent contamination of food, equipment, utensils, linens, and single-service and single-use articles". This could be applied specifically to footwear if it could be shown that not wearing footwear would be a source of contamination. There are no parts of these rules specifying the use of footwear for employees.

There are also no parts of these rules restricting a business or public place from setting standards for their patron's or employee's footwear.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson, REHS
Environmental Sanitation Program Manager