DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538

January 24, 2025

Hello Mr. Sands,

I received your inquiry, "Does the Minnesota Department of Agriculture have any laws, codes, or regulations requiring *customers or patrons* to wear shoes or other footwear in restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, or any other type of business it may regulate?"

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture administrates the Minnesota Food Code (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4626) under authority granted in Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 28A and 34A. Footwear requirements for customers or patrons are not specifically included in the relevant statutes or rules.

Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4626.0035, B. Requires that the person in charge ensures "persons unnecessary to the food establishment operation are not allowed in the food preparation, food storage, or warewashing areas, except that brief visits and tours may be authorized by the person in charge if steps are taken to ensure that exposed food; clean equipment, utensils, and linens; and unwrapped single-service and single-use articles are protected from contamination." If there would be an opportunity for food contamination to occur under these circumstances, it would be prohibited.

If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. My phone number is 651-358-0178.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Carlton

Kim Carlton
Retail Food Program Manager, Food and Feed Safety Division

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.