Joseph W. Guthrie
Commissioner

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218
www.vdacs.virginia.gov

January 21, 2025

Hello Mr. Sands,

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is in receipt of your letter inquiring about regulations for customers to wear shoes in grocery stores, convenience stores and other types of businesses regulated by VDACS.

VDACS Food Safety program is responsible for regulating food establishments covered by several different regulations, including the Virginia Food and Drink Law. While the applicable regulations do not directly address what a customer is wearing, it does state the cleanliness of facility must be maintained and conditions must exist to protect exposed food, food contact surfaces, linens and single-use and single-service items. A few of the applicable code sections below could be used for the food establishment. As you stated, the food establishment may impose their own requirements beyond our regulations.

The entire Virginia Food and Drink Law can be obtained at https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title3.2/chapter51/. Additional information may be obtained at the VDACS Food Safety website, https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-dairy-and-foods.shtml.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Bergin

Karen Bergin
Food Safety Manager
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§ 3.2-5106. Sanitary conditions of food establishments.
Every place used for the preparation for sale, manufacture, packing, storage, sale, or distribution of any food shall be properly lighted, drained, plumbed, and ventilated, and shall be operated with strict regard for the purity and wholesomeness of the food produced, and with strict regard to the influence of such conditions upon the health of any worker or employee.