STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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February 13, 2025

Dear Mr. Sands:

We received your January 15, 2025 letter asking if the Washington State Department of Health has any requirements for customers or patrons to wear footwear in food establishments. The short answer is no. Our Food Code does not require customers to wear anything in particular. As you mentioned, an establishment may have its own policy about what customers wear, footwear included, and how they behave, but the Food Code does not speak to those.

Washington State retail food regulation for grocery stores, restaurants, and similar establishments is contained in our Food Code, Chapter 246-215 WAC (Washington Administrative Code. The code is available online at: https:doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/332-033.pdf.

I hope this answers your question. If you need additional information, please feel free to reach out to me directly at Sammy.Berg@doh.wa.gov or 360.918.4205.

Sincerely,

Sammy Berg, RS

Sammy Berg, RS
Food Safety Program Supervisor