State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

February 21, 2025

RE: Regulation requiring patrons to wear shoes or other footwear.

Dear Mr. Sands:

Thank you for contacting the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection with your question concerning any regulatory requirements for patrons to wear footwear in a retail food establishment.

Secretary Romanski has asked the Division of Food and Recreational Safety to provide a response to your question.

Retail food establishments in Wisconsin fall under the regulatory authority of Wisconsin Statute 97. The administrative rule the deals with retail food establishments is found under ATCP 75 and its Appendix, the Wisconsin Food Code. The Wisconsin food code is focused on food safety issues related to retail food establishments that prepare, serve and sell food to the general public and does generally apply to patrons that visit these establishments. The statute and the food code do not specifically address the requirement of footwear by patrons in retail food establishments.

I hope this address your question, feel free to reach out if you have additional questions.

Sincerely;

James Kaplanek
Section Manager
Retail food and Recreational Program Section
Division of Food and Recreational Safety
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
James.kaplanek@wisconsin.gov
608-224-4735