



December 28, 2023

Starbucks
Attn: Renata Henderson
2523 NW Arterial
Dubuque, IA 52002

Re: Uncovered piping in back storage areas.

Dear Ms. Henderson:

I am responding to your waiver request from December 19, 2023 for a waiver from 481 IAC 31.1 Iowa Food Code **Section 6-201.11 states that walls shall be designed, constructed, and installed so they are smooth and easily cleanable. Section 6-201.12 (A) Utility service lines and pipes may not be unnecessarily exposed. (B) Exposed utility service lines and pipes shall be installed so they do not obstruct or prevent cleaning of the floors, walls, or ceilings.**

In your request you describe that the existing back storage room wall has open piping near the mop sink and electrical boxes, these were in place prior to opening and that many stores have a similar set up. It would be a financial burden to remodel the back storage room.

Iowa Code Chapter 17A.9A requires the following be found to grant a waiver.

- Application of rule would pose an undue hardship. It would be a financial hardship to remodel back storage area.
- The waiver would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person. Granting the waiver would not impact the legal rights of any person.
- Waiver is not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law. This is not a statutory requirement.
- Equal protection of public health, safety and welfare will be afforded by keeping all surfaces in this area clean.

Your proposal has been reviewed and we have decided to grant the waiver for the location listed above based on compliance with the following provisions: **1.)** food, food equipment and related food service items will not be stored in this area **2.)** cleaning of these surfaces will occur as frequently as necessary to maintain in a clean condition; **3.)** firm will establish a written procedure to train staff on cleaning of all surfaces in this back storage area. **4.)** if the structure is remodeled/renovated or a change in the scope of business or ownership, review of the waiver must be submitted and revisited.

If the above provisions are not followed, the waiver may be rescinded.

This waiver will be granted for three years, expiring on **12/28/2026**. You will need to contact the Department by **11/01/2026**, if you wish to request a continuance of your waiver.



If you have any questions, feel free to contact Brian Church Contract Administrator for Food and Consumer Safety at 515-669-3207 or brian.church@dia.iowa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Johnson, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Larry Johnson, Jr.
Director