

SEATTLE / KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
Community Environmental Health
Plumbing / Gas Piping Inspections

**DECISIONS / INTERPRETATIONS
of the Chief Plumbing Inspector**

Date: January 6, 2009

Decision No. 04-012
REVISED

Subject: Horizontal Vents and Fittings for Vent Connections to Trap Arms Below Flood Rim.

Code / Section: 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code, Section 905.3

Decision. For fixtures located on floors above the lowest floor level of the gravity drain, sanitary tees may be used in a horizontal configuration below the flood rim of the fixture for the vent connection to trap arm. Combination or wye fittings shall be required for these connections on the building drain floor level and on any floor level that drains to a sump. Elbows on horizontal vents below the flood rim of fixtures on all floor levels shall be of the long sweep pattern.

Horizontal vents are permitted below the flood rim of a fixture. However, such horizontal vents when located on the building drain floor level or on any floor level that drains to a sump shall rise vertically at the nearest wall adjacent to the fixture.

Background. While the Uniform Plumbing Code has required drainage pattern fittings on all vents below the flood rim, it has been standard practice in the industry for many years to use sanitary tees in the horizontal position for the vent connection to a trap arm below the flood rim. However, sewer backups are most likely to occur on the lowest level of gravity drainage. For this reason, it is reasonable to require the combination and/or wye fittings and to place appropriate limits on the length of horizontal vents below the flood rim. Additionally, in most cases the lowest floor level will allow more room necessary for the installation of combination and wye fittings, as opposed to upper floor levels within a joist space. Revision was to fix minor misspelling in title only.

Effective Date: January 6, 2009



Dave W Cantrell
Chief Plumbing Inspector