

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

DECISIONS / INTERPRETATIONS
of the Chief Plumbing Inspector

Date: May 15, 2007

Decision No. 07-002

Subject: Piping Support and Mid-Story Guides

Code / Section: 2003 UPC Table 3-2, Chapter 3 and Appendix I

Decision.

For plastic DWV piping up to and including 4-inch diameter where the vertical drainage stack does not exceed 12-feet in height, the base of the stack shall be considered as being supported where such support is provided on the horizontal piping downstream of the stack within 12-inches of the fitting. Other types of DWV piping materials shall be supported in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or the applicable product standard.

Mid-story guides for plastic DWV piping shall not be required for vertical drains and vents that do not exceed 12-feet in height and are not otherwise secured by means of connecting branches. All other piping materials shall be supported in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or the applicable product standard.

Background. There appears to be some inconsistency in the application of support at the base of stacks and mid-story guides. The manufacturer's instructions for plastic DWV systems usually only "*recommend*" certain types of support, and often this seems to conflict with code interpretation. There is not significant movement in vertical plastic DWV piping as one will find with plastic water distribution systems. In addition, a 12-foot section of PVC Cellular Core DWV weighs about 12 pounds and a 12-foot section of ABS Cellular Core DWV weighs about 9 pounds. Other types of materials such as cast iron, copper and stainless steel are going to be significantly heavier.