

**CHAPTER 9
VENTS**

**SECTION 903.2
IPC Interpretation No. 42-04
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903.2 Vent stack required. A vent stack shall be required for every drainage stack that is five branch intervals or more.



Q: Does a waste stack vent system, as described in Section 910, that is 5 branch intervals or more in height require a vent stack?

A: Yes. Section 903.2 literally says that a vent stack is required for all drainage stacks that are 5 branch intervals or more, and this would not exclude waste stack vents.

The intent of Section 910 is that the waste stack vent is in itself a venting method. A waste stack vent is oversized compared to other drainage stacks. The technical issue is whether or not a vent stack is needed to relieve positive pressure at the base of a waste stack vent system greater than 5 branch intervals in height. In this situation, such pressure fluctuations are likely to be negligible and, therefore, the need for a vent stack is questionable; however, one cannot ignore the literal wording of Section 903.2 and its lack of an exception for waste stack vents.
