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18th November 2008

Dear Sirs

Thames Water Utilities – McCann Easi-Base, confirmation of approval.

I am happy to confirm the following:

Although pre-cast manhole bases are rarely used in the UK they are widely used elsewhere and are included in European Standard EN 1917. The main reasons for them not being used here, have been the need for flexibility to accommodate design changes and the difficulties of installing rocker pipes in all connecting pipework, without the benefit of a free end.

In principle there is no reason why pre-cast concrete bases cannot be used in the UK in general or in Thames Water's operational area in particular, provided the supplementary performance and durability requirements of BS 5911 part 3 are incorporated.

The pre-cast concrete manhole bases produced by FP McCann have been checked against these requirements as part of an independent assessment, by WRC, and found to comply.

The normal specification used for new sewer construction in England and Wales is "Sewers for Adoption 6th edition". The manhole details within it do not prohibit the use of pre-cast bases. There is one minor difference between the FP McCann pre-cast base and the detail in Sewers for Adoption, insofar as Sewers for Adoption specifies a high quality concrete finish on the benching. The finished surface in the FP McCann product is Polypropylene with high quality concrete beneath. It is considered that this finish is superior to floated concrete and hence acceptable.

Therefore, provided they are the correct sizes, there is no reason to prohibit their use and they are currently deemed acceptable.

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All material and other specifications are currently under review so this confirmation should be taken as applying until Sewers for Adoption 6th edition is withdrawn/superseded.

Don Ridgers

Senior Technical Consultant