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**CPM, Perfect Manhole and manhole bases - acceptability by Thames Water**

Dear Mr Seymour

I am happy to confirm the following:

Although pre-cast bases and associated chambers are rarely used in the UK they are widely used elsewhere and are included in European Standard EN 1917.

In principle there is no reason why pre-cast concrete chambers cannot be used in the UK in general or in Thames Water's operational area in particular, provided the access and space requirements set out in the National Annex to BS EN752 and the concrete mix requirements of BS5911 are complied with.

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 manholes or rectangular chambers. It is considered that due to the high quality of finish, general robustness of the chambers there is no requirement to surround the chambers with concrete provided that the joints are adequately sealed for watertightness, subject to checks for buoyancy (assuming ground water temporarily at ground level). Therefore there is no reason to prohibit their use and they are deemed acceptable.

It should be noted that rocker pipes are still required where rigid pipe systems are connected.

The acceptability of all sewer products will be reviewed when the new technical standard for sewers and lateral drains is published. This is anticipated for later this year.

Yours sincerely

**Don Ridgers**  
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