Cast Iron Hubless Couplings

Issue:
The Philadelphia Plumbing Code allows the use of cast iron hubless couplings “with special conditions when approved by the Department.” What are those “special conditions”, and how are they approved?

Solution:
The Philadelphia Plumbing Code (PPC) states:

P-903.9 Optional method of joining cast iron underground piping within an existing building. A cast iron hubless coupling which consists of a cast iron housing, stainless steel nuts and bolts and a neoprene gasket shall be permitted beneath a building with special conditions when approved by the Department.

In this case, the special conditions would be as follows:

1. The work is related to an existing building and;
2. The manufacturer and the associated testing standard allow for the use of the particular coupling on the pipe materials being joined and;
3. The installation is per manufacturer’s instructions.

The “Department” is defined in the Philadelphia Code as the Department of Licenses and Inspections. The Department is granted authority under the PA Uniform Construction Code to enforce plumbing construction requirements through certified code officials.

Therefore, any appropriately certified inspector, plans examiner or supervisor is authorized to approve the use of this optional joining method pursuant to the special conditions noted above.

Code Sections:
P-903.9 Optional method of joining cast iron underground piping within an existing building

Issued by:
Michael Fink, Chief Code Official

Date:
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Disclaimer:
This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.