

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS <b>CODE BULLETIN OF INFORMATION</b> <b>B-1901-R1</b>		CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA TITLE 4 — BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND OCCUPANCY CODE
SUBJECT OF BULLETIN: <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2018 PHILADELPHIA PLUMBING CODE</b></p>		REFERENCE CODE SECTION(S): <p style="text-align: center;">Title 4, Sub-Code P</p>
ISSUED BY		ISSUE DATE:
NAME: Elizabeth Baldwin, P.E.		August 19, 2019
TITLE: Building Code Official		REVISED: OCTOBER 16, 2019
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**ISSUE:**

Effective October 1, 2019, the City of Philadelphia will adopt a new Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

Design and construction contracts are typically developed and approved prior to permit application and may relate to the previous code in effect. In order to circumvent potential confusion and ease the transition to the new codes, the Department customarily allows a grace period wherein a designer may choose to have the project reviewed under the new code or a previous one.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 24, 2019, a new Philadelphia Plumbing Code was signed into law, marking the first time that the Philadelphia Plumbing Code has undergone significant change since 1995.

The new code provides for the modernization of materials, products and methods of construction. Code provisions are consistent with nationally recognized standards and are more compatible with other construction codes in effect within the City of Philadelphia.

The new code is predicated upon the 2018 International Plumbing Code with local modifications and will be published as the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

The 2004 Philadelphia Plumbing Code and the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code are separate and distinct codes. Provisions of each code may not be used interchangeably unless otherwise noted in this Bulletin. Such exceptions shall only be established under the recommendation of the Plumbing Advisory Board to ensure that the substitution meets the intent of the Code and does not present conflicts with other sections of the Code.

**POLICY:**

Beginning October 1, 2019, the Department will allow a grace period wherein a designer may choose to have the project reviewed under the 2004 Philadelphia Plumbing Code or the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code. The Department will allow permit application reviews under either the 2004 Philadelphia Plumbing Code or the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code up to and including **March 31, 2020**.

**All permit applications filed on or after April 1, 2020** shall be reviewed under the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

A permit must comply fully with the governing code edition and provisions **shall not** be interchanged.

Exception:

- 1) Permits<sup>1</sup> issued under the 2004 Plumbing Code may utilize compression gasket joints with hubbed cast-iron drainage pipe in accordance with Section 705.3.2 of the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

**DIRECTION:**

Based on the Department's policy, examiners shall conduct reviews under the code edition of the applicant's choice for all applications received up to and including March 31, 2020.

A construction permit applicant may select one of the two Philadelphia Plumbing Code versions for the review and shall indicate the selected version on the application or plans. If no selection is made, the examiner will perform the review based on the 2004 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

Plumbing permits must contain reference to the selected code in the permit description in order to ensure continuity of code provisions during inspections.

Applications submitted on and after April 1, 2020 shall be reviewed under the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

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<sup>1</sup> Permit issued under the 2004 Philadelphia Plumbing Code shall not require an amended permit be issued to reflect the installation and use of compression gaskets in accordance with Section 705.3.2 of the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.