



Sound Insulation

Design Advice and Pre-Completion Testing

Approved Document E of the Building Regulations 2003 requires that all new dwellings or conversions and other rooms in non-domestic buildings used for residential purposes (e.g. hotels, care homes, student and nursing accommodation) achieve minimum numerical standards for sound insulation between separating walls and floors. The amended regulations also provide guidance on reverberation in the common parts of buildings and acoustic conditions in schools, as well as minimum standards for the sound insulation of internal walls and floors.

Criteria for separating floors and walls between new dwellings or conversions are presented for both airborne and impact sound insulation. Demonstration of the sound insulation performance of these constructions is achieved through pre-completion testing (PCT) in accordance with regulated procedures. Given the technical requirements only suitably qualified testing organisations are acceptable for such testing and Southdowns is accredited under the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) Registration Scheme, which is the only accepted accreditation scheme for PCT other than UKAS.

At the design stage architects, developers and contractors need to ensure that building elements will achieve the required acoustical performance standards in-situ if expensive and untimely post-construction remediation works are to be avoided. A developer may choose to adopt a certified construction detail from the outset for new builds as set out in the Robust Standard Details handbook for the design, or may require professional advice if the development is a conversion of an existing building or non-standard details are to be used. Adopting performance standards higher than those in Approved Document E is rewarded under a credit scheme set-out in the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Contact us now for a quote for either pre-completion testing or design advice on 01273 488186 or by e-mail enquiries@southdowns.eu.com

As well as our broad experience in all fields of acoustics, our specific expertise and services for sound insulation include:

- review of proposed construction details for building elements;
- advice on Robust Standard Details;
- pre-completion testing; and
- recommendations on remedial measures for failed tests.

Why choose Southdowns?

- Competitive prices;
- Fast turnaround due to a team of available consultants;
- The company and testers are registered under the ANC Registration Scheme, ensuring formal compliance with the requirements of the Regulations;
- Southdowns consultants are affiliated with the Institute of Acoustics;
- Southdowns is a corporate member of the Association of Noise Consultants;
- Consultants work throughout the UK;
- Established company with proven track record in this and other relevant areas (e.g. building envelope sound insulation, noise for planning and legal services);
- Southdowns is accredited under the Constructionline pre-qualification scheme.

