

Building Control Guidance Note	Subject	Acoustic testing to show compliance with Part E – Resistance to the passage of sound							
	Issued	October 2021	Rev	A	Page	1	of	1	Ref GN8

It is a requirement of Building Regulations that certain buildings be designed and constructed in such a way that they provide reasonable resistance to sound from other parts of the same building and from adjoining buildings.

Where building work consists of the erection of a dwelling house or a building containing flats, the person carrying out the work can show compliance with the above requirement by one of the following methods:

- Ensure that appropriate sound insulation testing is carried out in accordance with a procedure approved by the Secretary of State and give a copy of the test results to the Local Authority; **or**
- Notify the Local Authority in accordance with Regulation 20A (4) that appropriate design details are in accordance with and approved by Robust Details Limited.

The 2010 edition of the Approved Document to Part E gives guidance on 'appropriate' testing. Annex B of the A.D. sets out the testing procedure approved by the Secretary of State. Paragraph B1.4 of the A.D. recommends that the test body should have appropriate third party accreditation, preferably UKAS (or European equivalent) or be members of the ANC Registration Scheme and be suitably qualified to carry out pre-completion testing.

Conclusion

If the pre-completion testing route is to be adopted, the test must be carried out in accordance with a procedure approved by the Secretary of State.

The 2010 edition of the Approved Document to Part E gives guidance on 'appropriate' testing. Annex B of the A.D. sets out the testing procedure approved by the Secretary of State. The testing body must have appropriate third party accreditation. Such accreditation is indicated as UKAS (or European equivalent) or be members of the ANC Registration Scheme. If the testing body is not accredited by the above organisations, they must be able to demonstrate a suitable alternative accreditation that is acceptable to the Building Control body. The Building Control body must also be satisfied that the testing is carried out in accordance with the procedure approved by the Secretary of State and described in detail in Annex B2 to the Approved Document to Part E.

Whilst technically it is only a recommendation that the testing body is UKAS accredited or a member of ANC, it may be difficult to show compliance with the testing requirements by other means, particularly as the 'recommendation' is further enhanced by an ODMP circular letter dated 18 July 2003 ref: CI/43/04/25.

Note;

Further information can be obtained from The Building Regulations 2010 or from the Council's Building Control Service on request. The views expressed in this document are those of East Midlands Building Consultancy and do not necessarily represent a guaranteed methodology for compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations 2010. East Midlands Building Consultancy accepts no liability for any claim that may arise in relation to reliance on the information contained in this document.