

Michelle Williamson  
Building Standards  
Denholm House  
Almondvale Business Park  
Livingston  
EH54 6GA

23 December 2010

Dear Ms Williamson

### **SUSTAINABILITY LABELLING WITHIN BUILDING STANDARDS**

Thank you for inviting the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) to comment on the consultation paper "SUSTAINABILITY LABELLING WITHIN BUILDING STANDARDS".

The ANC is the professional body representing the interests of the majority of acoustic consultants currently practicing in Scotland. We have consulted our membership with regard to the proposed new "Section 7 Sustainability" and would wish to make representation with regard to Sections S7 and G7 in the Well-being and Security section.

The ANC supports the inclusion of enhanced acoustic standards within the document. Good acoustic insulation often goes hand in hand with good air tightness and building sustainability. Noise disturbance is frequently highlighted in resident surveys as one of the most significant areas of dissatisfaction. Ensuring a high level of acoustic insulation at the outset will improve resident health and well being and reduce any future need to upgrade the properties sound insulation through further building works.

With regard to Section S7a, we would agree that a 2 dB improvement for sound insulation between dwellings is an appropriate increment. It should however be noted that the Maximum Impact sound transmission should be 54 dB L'nT,w and not 58 dB as an improved standard of impact transmission is shown by a lower number.

With regard to Section S7b, we are concerned that a 2dB improvement may have disproportionately large cost implications which may limit the take up of Section S7. The benefits may also not be significant on site compared to those for section S7a as a result of transmission via the flanking walls and doors. We would therefore consider that a 1dB improvement to 44 dB would be more appropriate.

With regard to Section G7a, we would suggest a 2 dB improvement for sound insulation is an appropriate increment to adequately differentiate from S7a. Therefore we would recommend a Minimum airborne sound insulation of 60 dB DnT,w. Again it should however be noted that the Maximum Impact sound transmission should read 53 dB L'nT,w (or 52 dB with ANC recommendation) and not 59 dB.

With regard to Section G7b, we would consider that a 2dB improvement on the Section 5 requirements to 45 dB would be more appropriate.

Finally with regard to Annex C1, we would recommend that the last word 'literature' is changed to 'Laboratory test certificates'.

Yours sincerely

Adrian James  
Consultation Co-ordinator