

Sound Insulation Testing from the ANC

Acoustic performance matters and the **Association of Noise Consultants (ANC)** puts the building industry in control with a trusted route to deliver compliance in this important area for the housebuilding sector.

Building Regulations require that new and converted dwellings are (except in certain circumstances) to be tested for sound insulation.

The accredited ANC ADvANCE Registration Scheme has been in operation since 2003, for pre-completion sound insulation tests in accordance with Approved Document E 'Resistance to the Passage of Sound' of the Building Regulations and its equivalent in Scotland.

The service meets these requirements to test new and converted dwellings for sound insulation.

So far, more than 500,000 sound insulation tests have been completed.

Based on a highly-effective 'design-build-test' cycle, the scheme provides the crucial link in optimising the balance between compliance rates and construction cost.

The results speak for themselves, with a pass rate that is consistently over 97 per cent, achieved as a result of ANC members having the expertise and knowledge to support clients and regulators throughout the testing process.





Background

Approved Document E of the Building Regulations states that the sound insulation tests should be performed by a company with third party accreditation such as UKAS or who are members of the **ANC ADvANCE Registration scheme**.

Any company who is part of the **ANC scheme** has demonstrated competency in undertaking the tests accurately, is subject to an annual audit of a randomly selected test site, and must complete regular witness tests by an ANC examiner.

Member companies are also able to give advice on remedial treatments in the event of a test failure.

Once a test has been completed, the results are uploaded to the **ANC ADvANCE Registration scheme** server, where the results may be checked by the customer and building inspectors, so there can be no doubt as to the official result.

Use of an ANC member company means that the tests will be accurate, conducted by a competent person, can be independently checked using the web-based scheme – and advice be given in the event of a test failure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MAIN CHANGES MADE BY THE 2010 AMENDMENTS
The main changes reflect the Building Regulations 2010 and Building (Approved Inspections etc.) Regulations 2010.
There were no changes to Part E of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010.

MAIN CHANGES MADE BY THE 2013 AMENDMENTS
The main changes, which apply only to England*, were to materials and workmanship.
There were no changes to Part E of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010.

CHANGE MADE BY THE 2015 AMENDMENT
The change, which applies only to England*, from 6 April 2015, is an update of the reference to standards for schools.

Approved Document E, Resistance to the passage of sound, gives guidance for the sound insulation tests required by the Building Regulations for new buildings and existing buildings in England and Wales as defined in the Building Regulations (No. 2) Order 2009.

HM Government

The Building Regulations 2010
The Building (Approved Inspections etc) Regulations 2010
Resistance to the passage of sound

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in other parts of the building and within a dwelling-house etc in internal parts of buildings for residential purposes

2003 edition
incorporating 2004, 2010, 2013 and 2015 amendments

Taking the **right approach**

There are many reasons why a sound insulation test may fail.

Sometimes the construction methods used are fundamentally inadequate, or the sound insulation may be compromised by errors in the installation. Flanking transmission around the edges of a wall or floor can also compromised the sound insulation they offer.

To avoid problems from the start, ANC members can give advice to developers and architects on the different methods of quantifying sound insulation, analyse existing buildings before conversion work takes place, assist with the selection of appropriate wall and floor partition systems and provide guidance on proposed construction details.

Advice at the outset is the best way to maximise the likelihood of passing the sound insulation tests.

Companies that are part of the **ANC ADvANCE Registration scheme** can give advice on construction proposals, junction details and the minimising of flanking transmission.

Guidance can also be given on reverberation treatments to communal areas and the construction of internal partitions.



Find out more

More details about the **ANC ADvANCE Registration scheme** can be found below:



Click **here**

ANC members registered to carry out **pre-completion testing** can be found below:



Click **here**

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