

## SOUND INSULATION – NEW DWELLINGS –

### The Use of Robust Details as an Alternative to Pre-completion Testing

As part of the Governments overall strategy to improve the quality of life, new Building Regulations were introduced last year relating to the resistance to the passage of sound (Part E). These Regulations and the Approved Document E (2003 edition) can be viewed on the ODPM website ([www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk)).

These Regulations introduced a provision requiring **pre-completion testing** by acoustic engineers whenever a new dwelling is created (the term “dwelling” includes houses and flats). However, whilst the requirement for pre-completion testing applied from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003 to dwellings formed by conversion, the implementation date for new-build dwellings was delayed until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004. This was in order that the government could consider an alternative means of ensuring compliance for new dwellings using approved standard **robust details**.

**Amended Regulations have been introduced which permit this alternative means of satisfying the regulations.**

A non-profit distributing company called ‘**Robust Details Ltd**’ has been set up to administer the use of robust details, and their role is to:

- **approve new robust details as a method of satisfying Building Regulations**
- **manage the use of robust details in the house-building industry by enabling builders or their representatives, to use them in new, attached homes**

- **monitor the performance of robust details and withdraw any that consistently fail to meet the required standards**
- **promote the use of robust details, and publish information to help the industry improve the sound insulation performance of separating walls and floors in new homes.**

Robust Details Limited are the only authority able to undertake this role.

Robust details provide a way of complying with Part E of the Building Regulations, avoiding the need to carry out pre-completion sound testing. However, there are important points that you should be aware of if you decide to choose this option.

In order to comply with the regulations, you will need to decide which robust detail to adopt (Robust Standard Details Ltd have published a loose leaf binder containing all such approved details which is available to purchase from them). You must then complete a registration form and send it to Robust Details Ltd with the correct fee (£30 per plot).

Once Robust Details Ltd has registered your application to use the standard details, they will send you a purchase statement containing the unique plot registration number that we require. They will also send you a checklist for each detail, and a compliance certificate for each plot.

It is essential that you pass the purchase statement to us before you start work, and preferably submit it with the Building Regulation application.

When the work is being undertaken, you will be required to complete the checklist, and on completion of the detail you must sign a compliance certificate, which you must forward to us. This will be evidence that you have thoroughly checked the construction on site to ensure that it is strictly in accordance with the approved robust detail specification.

#### Remember:

- You must give us notification before commencing any work on site that you will be using one or more design details approved by Robust Details Ltd.
- The notification must specify the part or parts of the building where you will be using the design detail, the design detail concerned and the unique number issued by Robust Details Ltd in respect of the specified use of the design detail.
- You must ensure that that the work is carried out strictly in accordance with the design detail.

Unless this procedure is observed in full, you will be required to carry out pre-completion sound testing.



**robust**details

**Further information on the Robust Details scheme is available from;**

Robust Details Ltd  
PO Box 7289  
Milton Keynes  
MK14 6ZQ

**Telephone / Fax:**  
Business line: 0870 240 8210

Technical support line: 0870 240 8209  
Fax: 0870 240 8203

**Email Support:**  
Technical email support:  
[technical@robustdetails.com](mailto:technical@robustdetails.com)

Administrative email support:  
[administration@robustdetails.com](mailto:administration@robustdetails.com)

Other support:  
[customerservice@robustdetails.com](mailto:customerservice@robustdetails.com)

Or by visiting their informative website at  
[www.robustdetails.com](http://www.robustdetails.com)

**Note:**  
Persons proposing to carry out building work are reminded that Planning Permission or Listed Building Consent may also be required, and you are advised to contact Development Control for guidance (01983 823552).



Further advice can be obtained from:

Planning Services  
Building Control Section  
Seaclose Offices  
Fairlee Road  
NEWPORT  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 2QS

☎: 01983 823580

E-mail: [building.control@iow.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@iow.gov.uk)

Website: [www.iwight.com/buildingcontrol](http://www.iwight.com/buildingcontrol)

## **BUILDING CONTROL**

ADVISORY NOTE BC22

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PLANNING SERVICES

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