



BUILDING CONTROL INFORMATION SHEET



Sound Insulation – New Dwellings

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

As part of the Government's overall strategy to improve the quality of life, Building Regulations were introduced in 2003 relating to the resistance to the passage of sound (Part E). These Regulations and the Approved Document E (2003 edition) can be viewed at the Government's website (www.planningportal.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 1st July 2003 to dwellings formed by conversion, the implementation date for new-build dwellings was delayed until 1st 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 now 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.

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.



Further information on the Robust Details scheme is available from;



Robust Details Ltd
Davy Avenue
Knowlhill
Milton Keynes
MK5 8NB



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
Administrative email support: administration@robustdetails.com
Other support: customerservice@robustdetails.com
Or by visiting their informative website at www.robustdetails.com



Building Control, Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2QS



Tel: (01983) 823580



E-mail: building.control@iow.gov.uk

Website: www.iowight.com/buildingcontrol



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