

Acoustic assessment of a proposed music school

Richmond Brewery Stores, Petersham Road, Richmond TW10 6UW



Client: School of Rock

Report Reference: 240807-R001A

Date: 6th September 2024



Revision:	Date:	Author:	Checked:
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0. SUMMARY

- 0.1. ACA Acoustics Limited has been commissioned to carry out an acoustic assessment of a proposed new music school facility at Richmond Brewery Stores, Petersham Road, Richmond.
- 0.2. Referring to Local Authority guidelines, ACA Acoustics recommend that operational noise emissions to the above residential spaces should be ≤NR25 and ≤LCeq 48dB and ≤NR25 to the above office spaces.
- 0.3. Sound insulation tests have been carried out on the existing structure between the ground and 1st floor areas and the adjoining commercial/residential premises on 22nd August 2024. Using the results of the testing an assessment of operational noise transmission has been carried out.
- 0.4. A detailed scheme of acoustic mitigation works has been developed and presented in this report which demonstrate that the relevant internal noise levels can be achieved.
- 0.5. Subject to the mitigation works detailed in this report being implemented correctly, resultant sound levels inside the above offices will be ≤NR19 and ≤LCeq 45dB / ≤NR20 in the above residential premises and will therefore comply with the requirements stipulated by the Local Authority.
- 0.6. In terms of noise breakout, it is recommended that the LAeq, 5 min to not exceed the background LA90, 5 min. In this case the LA90 has been calculated to be 48dB. It has been calculated that no additional measures are required to achieve the criteria for external noise breakout.
- 0.7. Plant details for the development are not yet known, however the plant shall be selected/located/mitigated to ensure the sound levels are ≤43dBA at 1m outside the nearest residential window. This is 5dBA below the prevailing background sound levels.
- 0.8. Allowing for the proposed mitigation measures set out in this report, noise from the proposed music school will not be disturbing or detrimental to the amenity of closest residential receptors.



1. INTRODUCTION

The client is preparing an application seeking consent to develop a new music tuition facility within the Richmond Brewery Stores site on Petersham Road, Richmond.

ACA Acoustics Limited has been commissioned to carry out a survey and assessment of noise transmission from the proposed music school to adjoining residential premises and, where necessary, to make recommendations for a suitable sound mitigation scheme.

This report presents results of the background sound level survey, sound insulation testing and assessment.

2. ACOUSTIC CRITERIA

2.1. Local Authority – Entertainment Noise

The London Boroughs of Hillingdon, Hounslow & Richmond provide a supplementary planning document titled 'Development Control for Noise Generating and Noise Sensitive Development.' Table 4 within Section 7 of this document provides guidance pertinent to places of entertainment. Whilst not strictly applicable to this site, it is assessed that due to the live music elements, it provides the most suitable criteria for operational noise from this development to be assessed against.

	Table 4:	Entertainment Noise - Noise Standards
Location	Time	Criteria
	9am to	LAeq,5min EN minus LAeq,5min or LA90,5min WEN = 0 to +5 dBA.
External _	11pm	LCeq,5min EN minus LCeq,5min or LC90,5min WEN = 0 to +5 dBC.
External -	11pm to	LAeq,5min EN minus LAeq,5min or LA90,5min WEN = -5 to +3 dBA.
	9am	$L_{ceq,5min}$ EN minus $L_{ceq,5min}$ or $L_{C90,5min}$ WEN = -10 to +3 dBC.
	9am to	EN = Noise Rating NR25-35 Leq,5mins
Internal _	11pm	L _{Ceq,5min} EN minus L _{Ceq,5min} or L _{C90,5min} WEN = -10 to +5 dBC.
	11pm to	EN = Noise Rating NR15-25 Leq,5mins
	9am	L _{ceq,5min} EN minus L _{ceq,5min} or L _{c90,5min} WEN = -10 to 0 dBC.

Figure 1: Criteria table taken from Richmond SPD

The music school will only be open during daytime hours, therefore in terms of internal criteria operational noise emissions from the proposed music school will be controlled to not exceed a level of NR25 (Leq, 5 min) and for the LCeq, 5 min to be at least 5dB below the background LC90, 5 min within the upper floor residential apartments. Sound levels to inside the adjoining 1st floor offices have been designed to not exceed a level of NR25 (Leq, 5 min).



2.2. Local Authority – Mechanical Plant Noise

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council's policies relating to noise are contained within the Council's Supplementary Planning Document *Noise Generated and Noise Sensitive Development*, written in conjunction with the Boroughs of Hillingdon and Hounslow.

Section 6 relates to noise noise-generated industrial and commercial development and confirms that "all industrial and commercial development with the potential to generate noise will be assessed and, where relevant, controlled by planning conditions in order to protect residential amenity ... the most relevant standard for assessing new industrial and commercial development is BS 4142:2014".

The scope of BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 advises that "this British Standard describes methods for rating and assessing sound of an industrial and/or commercial nature ... to assess the likely effects of sound on people who might be inside or outside a dwelling or premises used for residential purposes upon which sound is incident". BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 is commonly used to assess the potential for loss of amenity due to noise from mechanical services equipment and is considered appropriate for this application.

The assessment method of BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 corrects the specific sound level from the source under investigation to account for characteristics that could make the sound more obtrusive to obtain a rating level. This rating level is compared against the prevailing background noise outside the noise-sensitive property. Section 11 of BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 provides a commentary of the assessment result and advises that:

- a) The greater the difference between the rating level and the background sound level, the greater the magnitude of the impact;
- b) A difference of around +10dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse impact, depending on the context;
- c) A difference of around +5dB is likely to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context;
- d) The lower the rating level is to the measured background sound level, the less likely it is that the specific sound source will have an adverse impact or a significant adverse impact. Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context.

Typically, ACA Acoustics recommends designing the rating level of sound emissions from new mechanical plant to not exceed the background sound level at the nearest residential dwellings, thus achieving a 'low impact' as defined in BS 4142:2014+A1:2019. Albeit the context of the development must be considered on a project-by-project basis which can alter the initial assessment result. However, in this instance Richmond upon Thames Council have their own judgement of the BS 4142:2014 assessment outcome, as set out in Table 2 of the SPD and shown in Table 1 below.



Noise Impact from Relevant Proposed Industrial or Commercial Premises or Plant	Development Outcome
Rating level (LAr, Tr) is at least 5dBA below the Background Level LA90	Normally acceptable
Rating Level (LAr, Tr) is no more than 5dBA above the Background Level LA90	Acceptable only if there are overriding economic or social reasons for development to proceed
Rating Level (LAr, Tr) is more than 5dBA above the Background Level LA90	Normally unacceptable

Table 1: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' external noise standards

Section 6.3 of the SPD advises that for some projects it may also be appropriate to predict internal sound levels within nearby dwellings, in addition to the assessment of noise to outside these properties.

3. **REVIEW OF SITE LOCATION & DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

The proposals include developing the northern side of the ground floor and part of the first floor of the building into a new music school. The remainder of the ground and first floors will remain office use and there are residential flats on the second floor of the site.

It is understood the proposed opening times of the facility will be 10:00 - 22:30 weekdays and 10:00 - 18:00 on Saturdays.



Figures 2 & 3 below shows the site within the surrounding vicinity for context.

Figure 2: Front facade showing site location and closest receptors





Figure 3: Rear façade showing closest receptors and external background noise survey location

Figures 4 & 5 indicate the internal layout of the development. The layout has been designed to keep the noisier activities such as drum lessons and ensemble rehearsals on the ground floor.

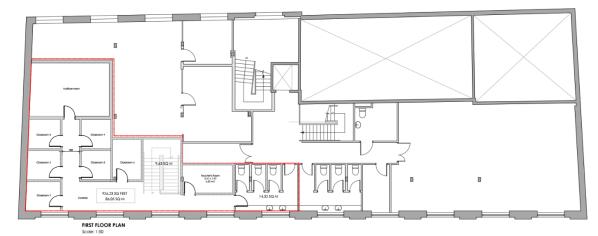


Figure 4: Proposed first floor plan

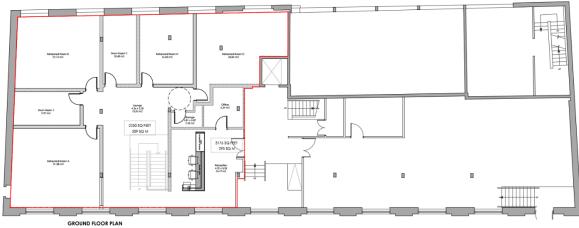


Figure 5: Proposed ground floor plan



4. SOUND LEVEL SURVEY

4.1. Internal Sound Level Survey

A survey of the sound insulation performance of the separating floor between the proposed development unit and the residential units above, along with sound insulation between ground and first floor levels has been carried out.

The survey was conducted by Sam Message of ACA Acoustics on 22nd August 2024. Tests were conducted in accordance with the methodology of BS EN ISO 16283-1:2014.

Results of the measured level difference, in terms of weighted single-figure value, is shown in the table below. Full results are included in Appendix A.

Test Reference	Source Room	Receiving Room	Level Difference D,w (dB) (C'tr)
AF01	Ground floor open area	1 st floor open area	52(-3) dB*
AF02	Ground floor offices	1 st floor offices	66(-9) dB
AF03	1 st Floor open plan area	2 nd floor residential hallway	61(-9) dB
AF04	Ground floor open area	2 nd floor residential hallway	- Not audible and no measurement possible

Table 2: Sound insulation test results

* This test was compromised due to small gaps in the separating floor, however for robustness AF01 has been used as the basis for the assessment.

A test between the ground floor open area and 2nd floor residential hallway was attempted, however even with the loudspeaker turned up fully to around LAeq 105dB, no noise was audible/measurable to the second floor level. This provides positive indication that very high sound levels at ground floor level will not impact top floor residents.

During the sound insulation tests the internal background level was also measured within the 2nd floor hallways. A level of LA90 30dB / LC90 48dB was measured and will be used for the assessment. As the hallway is to the rear of the property and screened from the main road with sealed windows, this is considered a robust measurement.

During the sound insulation testing noise breakout through the external façade (with windows closed) was also conducted. At 1m from a window the following reduction values were measured.



63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	Dw
24	28	31	39	39	44	40	51	40

Table 3: Sound reduction measured through external facade

4.2. External Sound Level Survey

To assess sound levels from new mechanical equipment and sound breakout from the development, it is necessary to establish representative background sound levels in the vicinity during the proposed plant operating times.

The background sound level was measured via an unattended survey at the position indicated in Figure 3. This position was considered as being representative of the NSR1 receptor. The survey was set up by Sam Message of ACA Acoustics and conducted between the 22nd and 23rd August 2024.

During the survey, the soundscape in the vicinity was influenced predominantly by local and distant road traffic as well as car park activity including frequent delivery vans.

The following equipment was used during the survey. An on-site calibration check was conducted on the sound level meter prior to the survey and repeated after with no deviation noted.

Equipment	Serial Number
NTi Audio Class 1 sound level meter type XL2-TA	A2A-18128-E0
Svantek calibrator type SV33B. Compliant to IEC 60942-1:2003	10436

 Table 4: Equipment used for the sound level survey
 Image: Comparison of the sound level survey

Weather conditions at the time of setting up the survey consisted of 50% cloud, light winds, dry ground conditions and a temperature of around 25°C. Weather conditions have been reviewed at www.worldweatheronline.com, using the closest available commercial weather station. Weather conditions remained predominantly calm and dry with wind speeds below recommended limits during the proposed equipment operation times. Meteorological conditions are considered acceptable and will not have adversely impacted the survey results.

Results of the survey are shown in graphical form in Figure 6 below.



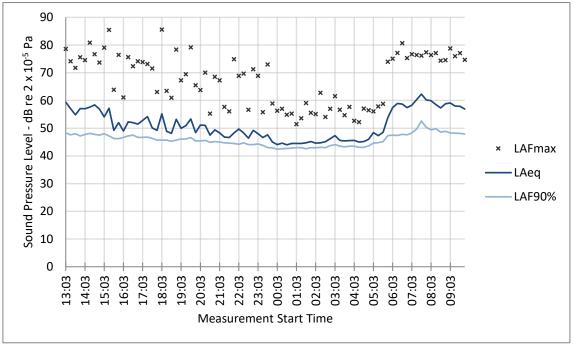


Figure 6: Sound level survey results – 22nd – 23rd August 2024

In accordance with the methodology set out in BS 4142:2014+A1:2019, the background sound level is not necessarily the lowest recorded value. Instead, the background sound level should be a level which is representative of the underlying soundscape at the receptor location.

A statistical analysis of the measured LA90 results during daytime hours is shown in Figure 7 below, following guidance set out in the Standard.

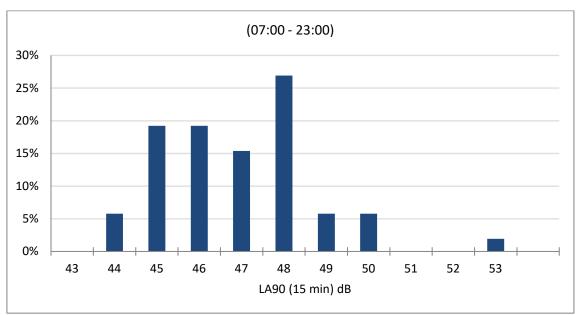


Figure 7: Statistical analysis of measured LA90 sound levels during the assessment period

Based on the statistical analysis of the survey results, the author considers a level of LA90 48dB /LC90 58dB is representative of the background sound level in the vicinity.



Summary results of the survey are provided in Table 4 below.

Receptor	Period	Background Sound Level During Operating Period
NSR1	07:00 to 23:00	LA90 48dB
		LC90 58dB

Table 5: Summary sound level survey results

5. ASSESSMENT OF OPERATIONAL NOISE TO ADJOINING PROPERTIES

5.1. Source Sound Levels

To calculate the potential impact of the proposed development it is necessary to establish typical sound levels within different rooms of the facility.

ACA Acoustics have previously recorded sound levels in existing similar facilities. Spectra used in the assessment equates to an overall sound level of LAeq 102dB for the rehearsal, drum rooms and multiuse rooms and a level of LAeq 91dB in the 1st floor smaller individual teaching classrooms. These are considered to be absolute 'worst-case' levels and unlikely to be exceeded; for most of the time sound levels will be considerably lower.

Description	Octave Band Frequency (Hz) – Leq (dB)									
	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	LAeq				
Rehearsal/Multiuse Rooms	99	106	103	100	95	92	88	79	102	
1 st Floor Teaching Classrooms	95	94	96	86	81	80	80	76	91	

Confirmation of the source sound level data used in the assessment is shown in Table 5 below.

Table 6: Anticipated source sound levels

5.2. Acoustic Assessment of Internal Operational Noise Transmission

Based on the anticipated source sound level and the measured level difference of the **existing building structure**, resultant sound levels inside the adjoining residential demises are shown below.



Rehearsal/Multiuse Rooms	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	dBC	NR	Criteria Excess
1 st Floor offices	61	67	58	48	45	38	31	15	68	52	+27dB
2 nd Floor residential	60	69	52	40	28	19	11	4	69	54	+21dB

Table 7: Calculated sound levels from the demise to adjoining residential premises – existing building structure

Classrooms	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	dBC	NR	Criteria Excess
2 nd Floor residential	55	57	45	26	14	7	3	1	59	54	+11dB

Table 8: Calculated sound levels from the demise to adjoining residential premises – existing building structure

It is important to remember that the results in Table 6 & 7 are with the existing building structure and do not include any recommended mitigation. This confirms that mitigation treatments are required to the building structure to meet the requirements of the criteria as detailed within Section 2. Appropriate mitigation measures are detailed in the following section.

5.3. External Noise Egress

An assessment of noise emissions through the external façade has been carried out. The assessment considers the source sound levels shown in Section 5.1, along with the measured sound insulation performance of the existing façade shown in Section 4.1, together with the additional distance from the windows to the closest residential receptors.

Noise breakout through the façade of the proposed music school will result in a sound level of LAeq 40dB and LCeq 54dB at 1m from the nearest residential window. These levels do not exceed the external background sound levels of LA90 48dB/LC90 58dB shown in Table 4, therefore the criteria to outside residential receptors discussed in Section 2.1 will be met without any further mitigation measures.

These calculations are assuming the windows will be kept closed as the facility will have mechanical ventilation/air conditioning.



6. MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS

6.1. Acoustic Ceilings

It is understood that all of the rooms that contain any live music will be constructed as an independent 'room in a room' design. Neither the walls nor the ceilings of the rooms will be directly connected to the existing building structure. This type of design inherently provides a very high degree of sound insulation.

Appendix B of this document details the various wall and ceiling constructions which will be used for the different room types.

Acoustic doors should also be fitted to all of the rooms as per the details discussed in Appendix B.

6.2. 1st Floor Separating Wall

On the 1st floor there will be a separating wall between the music school demise and the adjacent office spaces. For this wall it is recommended that wall type T3 of Appendix B is used **in addition** to the independent room walls.

6.3. Calculated Resultant Sound Levels with Mitigation Scheme

The anticipated resultant sound levels inside the adjoining noise-sensitive receptors once the mitigation measures are implemented correctly, are shown below.

Rehearsal/Multiuse Rooms	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	dBC	NR	Criteria Excess
1 st Floor offices	47	38	11	9	13	12	10	-6	43	19	-6dB
2 nd Floor residential	46	40	5	1	-4	-7	-10	-17	43	20	-5dB

Table 9: Calculated sound levels from the demise to adjoining residential premises allowing for proposed mitigation

Classrooms	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	dBC	NR	Criteria Excess
1 st Floor residential	48	36	11	-17	-22	-23	-22	-24	45	16	-3dB

Table 10: Calculated sound levels from the demise to adjoining residential premises allowing for proposed mitigation

Table 9 & 10 above shows that the relevant criteria can be met with the above mitigation works implemented.



7. MECHANICAL PLANT

It is anticipated that the proposed music school will incorporate mechanical plant such as air conditioning condensers or ventilation fans.

It is understood the mechanical plant will be submitted as a separate planning application.

Plant details for the development are not yet known, however for the nearest noise-sensitive receptor, the plant shall be selected/located/mitigated to ensure the sound levels comply with the criteria set out in Section 2.2 and outlined in Table 10 below. This equates to a level at least 5dBA below the background sound level, when assessed in accordance with BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 and achieves a level of *'normally acceptable'* as set out in Richmond's SPD.

Source Type	Criteria (09:00 – 23:00)
Mechanical Plant	43dBA

Table 11: Design cumulative equipment sound levels at 1m outside noise-sensitive windows

8. CONCLUSION

A new music school facility is being developed at Richmond Brewery Stores, Petersham Road.

ACA Acoustics have carried out sound insulation tests on the separating floor between the proposed bar and adjoining residential and potential commercial premises. Based on anticipated source levels within the facility, resultant sound levels inside receptor demises will be within the limits stipulated by the local authority. This is subject to the mitigation works detailed in this report being implemented correctly.

External noise egress levels have also been assessed and also comply with the relevant requirements without any further mitigation measures.

Any new mechanical plant will be selected/mitigated to ensure that the noise levels produced at the nearest noise sensitive receptors also comply with the local authority requirements



Appendix A

Sound Insulation Test Results



Level Difference Measured in Accordance with ISO 140-4

Field measurements of airborne sound insulation between rooms

Project Name	School of Rock	Client	Matias Puga
Project Reference	240901	Test Date	03/09/2024

240901-AF01

Test on Floor between Ground and 1st Floor

Description and identification of the building construction:

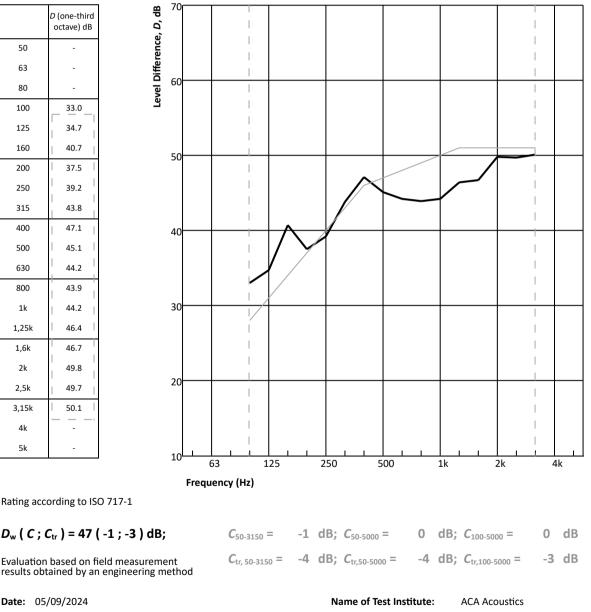
Source Room Volume (m³) Receive Room Volume (m³)

_ _ _ .

Frequency range according to the

Curve of reference values (ISO 717-1)

	D (one-third octave) dB
50	-
63	-
80	-
100	33.0
125	34.7
160	40.7
200	37.5
250	39.2
315	43.8
400	47.1
500	45.1
630	44.2
800	43.9
1k	44.2
1,25k	46.4
1,6k	46.7
2k	49.8
2,5k	49.7
3,15k	50.1
4k	
5k	-



Rating according to ISO 717-1 $D_{\rm w}$ (C; $C_{\rm tr}$) = 47 (-1; -3) dB;

Report Reference: 240901 R1

Evaluation based on field measurement

Date: 05/09/2024

SM

ACA Acoustics Limited

Tel: 01793 766 324 Tel: 0203 609 8733



Level Difference Measured in Accordance with ISO 140-4

Field measurements of airborne sound insulation between rooms

Project Name	School of Rock	Client	Matias Puga
Project Reference	240901	Test Date	03/09/2024

240901-AF02

Test on Floor between Ground Office and 1st Offirce

Description and identification of the building construction:

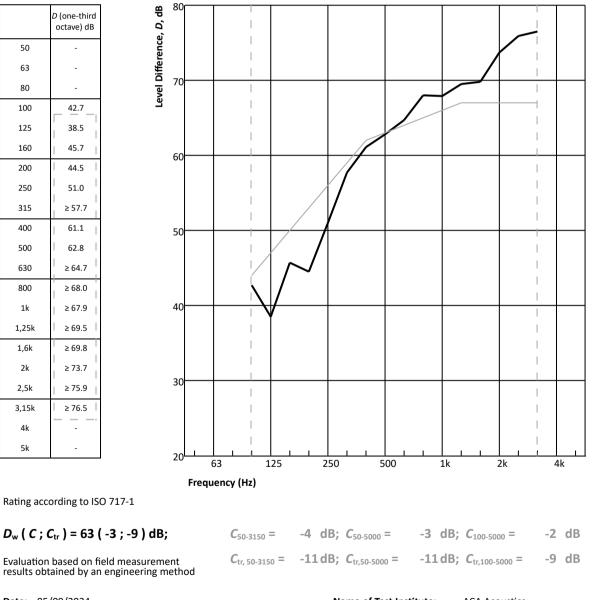
Source Room Volume (m³) Receive Room Volume (m³)

_ _ _ .

Frequency range according to the

Curve of reference values (ISO 717-1)

	D (one-third octave) dB
50	-
63	-
80	-
100	42.7
125	38.5
160	45.7
200	44.5
250	51.0
315	≥ 57.7
400	61.1
500	62.8
630	≥ 64.7
800	≥ 68.0
1k	≥ 67.9
1,25k	≥69.5
1,6k	≥ 69.8
2k	≥ 73.7
2,5k	≥ 75.9
3,15k	≥ 76.5
4k	
5k	-



Date: 05/09/2024 Name of Test Institute: ACA Acoustics Signature: Report Reference: 240901 R1 SM

ACA Acoustics Limited

Rating according to ISO 717-1

Head Office: 12 Sheep Street, Highworth, Wiltshire, SN6 7AA London Office: 3 Shortlands, Hammersmith, London, W6 8DA

Tel: 01793 766 324 Tel: 0203 609 8733



Level Difference Measured in Accordance with ISO 140-4

Field measurements of airborne sound insulation between rooms

Project Name	School of Rock	Client	Matias Puga
Project Reference	240901	Test Date	03/09/2024

240901-AF03

Test on Floor between 1st Floor and Resi Hallway

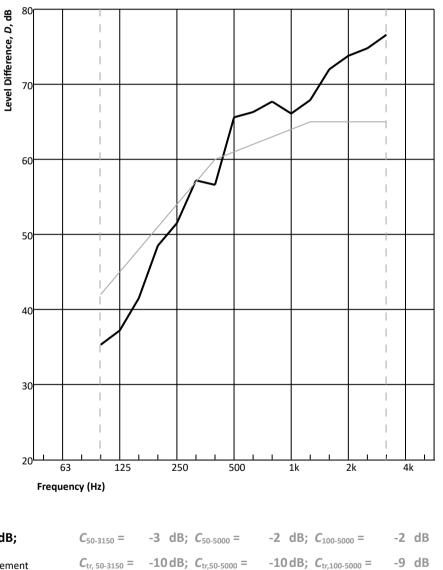
Description and identification of the building construction:

Source Room Volume (m³) Receive Room Volume (m³)

— — — Frequency range according to the

Curve of reference values (ISO 717-1)

	D (one-third octave) dB
50	-
63	-
80	-
100	_ 35.3 _
125	37.2
160	41.5
200	48.5
250	51.5
315	≥ 57.2
400	56.6
500	65.6
630	≥ 66.3
800	≥ 67.7
1k	≥66.1
1,25k	≥67.9
1,6k	≥ 72.0
2k	≥ 73.8
2,5k	≥ 74.8
3,15k	≥76.6
4k	
5k	-



Rating according to ISO 717-1

$D_{\rm w}$ (C; C_{tr}) = 61 (-3; -9) dB;

Evaluation based on field measurement results obtained by an engineering method

Name of Test Institute:

Signature:

ACA Acoustics

SM

|--|

ACA Acoustics Limited

Date: 05/09/2024

Tel: 01793 766 324 Tel: 0203 609 8733



Appendix B

Typical Partition Construction Details



School of Rock Acoustic Insulation

The following acoustic solutions are being used by School of Rock in United States and Latin America to achieve a proper insulation and reduce noise impact. They provide a reduction of 50 Db - from 110 Db to 60- from interior of drum or rehearsal rooms to corridors and from then to outer space there another reduction of 20-30 Db. The reduction of noise is based in the principle of total insulation of each school room from inside. Walls and Ceilings are treated as insulated boxes, plus acoustics doors to ensure noise insulation.

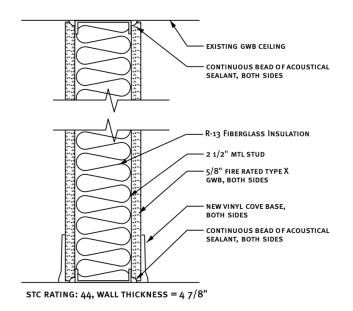
Walls

Depending on each type of room there are three types of wall acoustic solutions:

1. Basic Wall Solution - T1

Used for office, storage room, bathrooms, teachers room.

This wall is constructed in 2 1/2'' metal stud framing with with one layer of 5/8'' drywall per each side plus fiberglass insulation

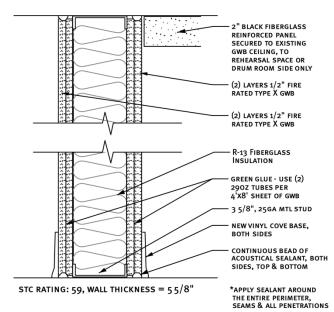


1. Figure. T1 Wall Type

2. Medium Acoustic Wall Solution – T2

Used for lesson room – guitar, bass, singing, piano or keyboard.

This is wall is constructed in 3 5/8" metal stud framing with two layers of 5/8" drywall per each side plus a perimetral sealent. Drywall are stick and sealed with Green Glue.

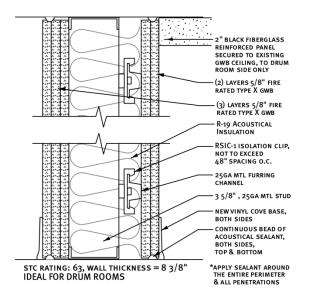


2. Figure. T2 Wall Type

3. High Acoustic Wall Solution – T3

Used for drum rooms and rehearsal rooms.

This is wall is constructed with a metal framing of 3 5/8" metal stud, with two layers of 5/8" drywall per one side and three layers of 5/8" drywall for the other side plus a perimetral sealent. Drywalls are stick and sealed with Green Glue.



3. Figure. T3 Wall Type

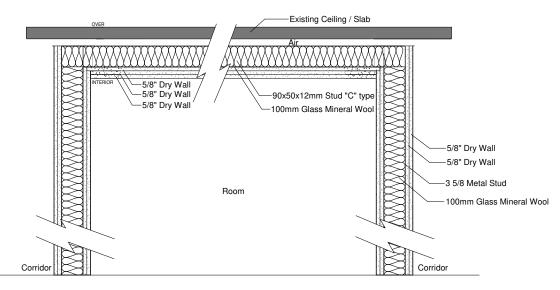
Ceiling

1. Medium Acoustic Ceiling Solution

Used for lesson room – guitar, bass, singing, piano or keyboard.

This is Ceil is constructed with steel frame "C" Stud 90x50x12.0 mm. plus two layers of 5/8" drywall bottom side and two layers of 5/8" drywall over the "C" Stud. Inside has 50 mm. of glass mineral wool. The drywall are stick and sealed with Green Glue.

4. Figure. Acoustic Ceiling Section Type proposed for Medium acoustic needs.

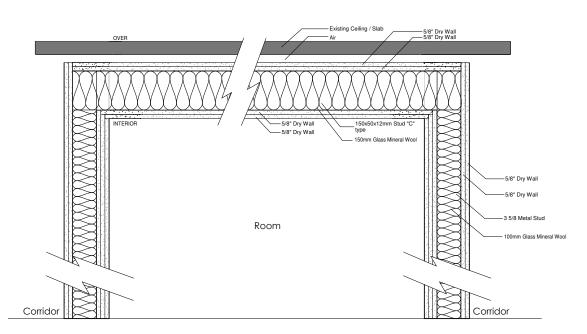


ACOUSTIC SKIES SCANTLINGS Esc. 1 : 5

2. High Acoustic Ceiling Solution

Used for drum rooms and rehearsal rooms.

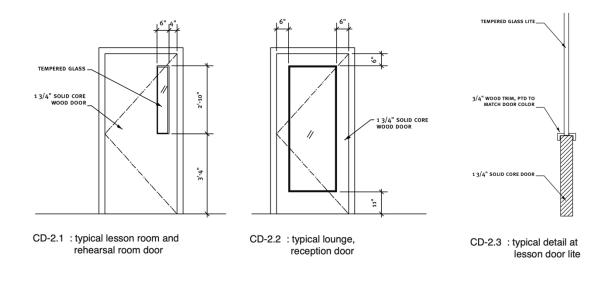
This is Ceil is constructed with "C" Stud 150x50x12.0 mm. plus two layers of 5/8" drywall bottom side and two layers of 5/8" drywall over the "C" Stud. Inside has 100 mm. of glass mineral wool. The drywall are sticked and sealed with Green Glue.

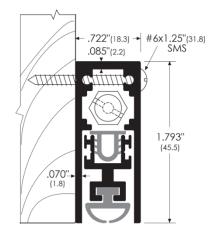


5. Figure. Acoustic Ceiling Section Type proposed for High acoustic needs.

Doors

Doors are made with a solid interior. Double contact wooden frame and a tempered or double glassing glass – preferred – when using glass panel. An automatic door bottom Is added in the inferior external side of the door to ensure acoustic sealing.





1. Figure. Acoustic Door Bottom. Model A351 Exterior.

when _________/

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