

Approved Document E - Resistance to the passage of sound

This document covers sound insulation requirements in dwelling-houses, flats, rooms for residential use and schools. These requirements not only cover party walls, but also internal walls and floors, and common areas within flats and rooms for residential uses.

Rooms for residential use includes, hostels, hotels, boarding houses, halls of residence and residential homes.



2003 edition incorporating 2004 amendments: Valid from 1 July 2004

The requirements in this edition of Approved Document E are as follows:

Requirement

Protection against sound from other parts of the building and adjoining buildings

E1. Dwelling-houses, flats and rooms for residential purposes shall be designed and constructed in such a way that they provide reasonable resistance to sound from other parts of the same building and from adjoining buildings.

Limits on application

None

Requirement

Protection against sound within a dwelling-house etc.

E2. Dwelling-houses, flats and rooms for residential purposes shall be designed and constructed in such a way that -

- (a) internal walls between a bedroom or a room containing a water closet, and other rooms; and
- (b) internal floors, provide reasonable resistance to sound.

Limits on application

Requirement E2 does not apply to -

- (a) an internal wall which contains a door;
- (b) an internal wall which separates an en suite toilet from the associated bedroom;
- (c) existing walls and floors in a building which is subject to a material change of use.

Requirement

Reverberation in the common internal parts of buildings containing flats or rooms for residential purposes

E3. The common internal parts of buildings which contain flats or rooms for residential purposes shall be designed and constructed in such a way as to prevent more reverberation around the common parts than is reasonable.

Limits on application

Requirement E3 only applies to corridors, stairwells, hallways and entrance halls which give access to the flat or room for residential purposes.

Requirement

Acoustic conditions in schools

E4. (1) Each room or other space in a school building shall be designed and constructed in such a way that it has the acoustic conditions and the insulation against disturbance by noise appropriate to its intended use.

(2) For the purposes of this Part - school has the same meaning as in section 4 of the Education Act 1996[1]; and school building means any building forming a school or part of a school.

Limits on application

None