

# Hea05

## Acoustic performance

### Law court buildings

#### Actions:

- i. Complete post-construction testing for acoustic performance
- ii. Appoint a Suitably Qualified Acoustician if necessary, to define a bespoke set of performance requirements

#### i. Acoustic performance

The building should meet the [appropriate performance standards](#) and testing requirements for the acoustic principles of:

- a. Sound insulation
- b. Indoor ambient noise level
- c. Room acoustics

Law court Buildings	
First credit - Sound insulation	
Criteria	The sound insulation between acoustically sensitive rooms and other occupied areas complies with the performance targets given in Section 28 of Court Service Design Guide (CSDG), HMCS, 2010.
Testing requirement	A programme of pre-completion acoustic testing is carried out by a compliant test body in accordance with the requirements of Section 28 of the CSDG and 'Calculation Procedures' where applicable. For assessments in Scotland, see also <a href="#">Country-specific guidance</a> .
Second credit - Indoor ambient noise levels	
Criteria	Achieve indoor ambient noise levels that comply with the requirements of Section 28 of the CSDG. For assessments in Scotland, see also <a href="#">Country-specific guidance</a> .
Testing requirement	A programme of pre-completion acoustic testing is carried out by a compliant test body in accordance with Section 28 of the CSDG. For assessments in Scotland, see also <a href="#">Country-specific guidance</a> .
Third credit - Room acoustics	
Criteria	Acoustic environment (Control of reverberation and sound absorption):

Note: This document is intended as guidance only. Consult your BREEAM AP or Assessor to ensure compliance is achieved.

Law court Buildings	
	Achieve the requirements relating to sound absorption and reverberation times, where applicable, set out in Section 28 of the CSDG. For assessments in Scotland, see also <a href="#">Country-specific guidance</a> .
Testing requirement	A programme of pre-completion acoustic testing is carried out by a compliant test body in accordance with Section 28 of the CSDG and 'Calculation Procedures' where applicable. For assessments in Scotland, see also <a href="#">Country-specific guidance</a> .

## ii. Suitably qualified acoustician (SQA)

An individual achieving all the following items can be considered to be 'suitably qualified' for the purposes of a BREEAM assessment:

- Has a minimum of **three years relevant experience** (within the last five years). Such experience must clearly demonstrate a practical understanding of factors affecting acoustics in relation to construction and the built environment; including, acting in an advisory capacity to provide recommendations for suitable acoustic performance levels and mitigation measures.
- An individual who holds a recognised **acoustic qualification** and membership of an appropriate professional body. The primary professional body for acoustics in the UK is the Institute of Acoustics.

Where an SQA is verifying the acoustic measurements or calculations carried out by another acoustician who does not meet the SQA requirements, they must, as a minimum, have read and reviewed the report and confirm in writing that they have found it to:

- Represent sound industry practice
- Be appropriate given the building being assessed and scope of works proposed
- Avoid invalid, biased and exaggerated recommendations.

Additionally, **written confirmation** from the third-party verifier that they comply with the definition of an SQA is required.

An SQA can be appointed **alternatively to carrying out Action 1**, to define a bespoke set of performance requirements for all function areas in the building. The bespoke performance requirements use the same three acoustic principles (sound insulation, indoor ambient noise level and room acoustics) to set out the performance requirements and the testing regime required.

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