

## Section 0: Performance

### Performance standards

**0.1** In the Secretary of State's view the normal way of satisfying Requirement E1 will be to build separating walls, separating floors, and stairs that have a separating function, together with the associated flanking construction, in such a way that they achieve the sound insulation values for dwelling-houses and flats set out in Table 1a, and the values for rooms for residential purposes (see definition in Regulation 2) set out in Table 1b. For walls that separate rooms for residential purposes from adjoining dwelling-houses and flats, the performance standards given in Table 1a should be achieved.

**0.2** Regulation 41 of the Building Regulations 2010 and Regulation 20(1) and (5) of the Building (Approved Inspectors, etc.) Regulations 2010 apply to building work to which Requirement E1 applies, and require appropriate sound insulation testing to be carried out. The exception is that, in the case of new-build houses and buildings containing flats, Regulations 41 and 20(1) and (5) do not apply to any relevant part of the building

where the design embodies a design detail or details from the set approved and published by Robust Details Ltd; a valid notification is given to the building control body; and the actual work complies with the detail or details specified in the notification. Subject to this exception, which is further explained in *Annex E: Design details approved by Robust Details Ltd*, Regulation 44 applies where building control is being carried out by a local authority, and Regulation 20(1) and (5) applies where it is being carried out by an Approved Inspector. The normal way of satisfying Regulation 41 or 20(1) and (5) will be to implement a programme of sound insulation testing according to the guidance set out in Section 1: Pre-completion testing, of this Approved Document. It is possible for a builder to opt to use design details approved by Robust Details Ltd in some only of the relevant separating structures in a new house or building containing flats, with the other relevant separating structures remaining subject to testing under Regulation 41 or 20(1) and (5). However, it is recommended that expert advice is taken to ensure compatibility of the constructions.

**Table 0.1a Dwelling-houses and flats – performance standards for separating walls, separating floors, and stairs that have a separating function**

	Airborne sound insulation sound insulation $D_{nT,w} + C_{tr}$ dB (Minimum values)	Impact sound insulation $L'_{nT,w}$ dB (Maximum values)
<b>Purpose built dwelling-houses and flats</b>		
Walls	45	-
Floors and stairs	45	62
<b>Dwelling-houses and flats formed by material change of use</b>		
Walls	43	-
Floors and stairs	43	64

**Table 0.1b Rooms for residential purposes – performance standards for separating walls, separating floors, and stairs that have a separating function**

	Airborne sound insulation sound insulation $D_{nT,w} + C_{tr}$ dB (Minimum values)	Impact sound insulation $L'_{nT,w}$ dB (Maximum values)
<b>Purpose built rooms for residential purposes</b>		
Walls	43	-
Floors and stairs	45	62
<b>Rooms for residential purposes formed by material change of use</b>		
Walls	43	-
Floors and stairs	43	64