



Complying with Building Regulations Approved Document E

The HRS Acoustics Team is regularly being asked how best to comply with the Building Regulations Approved Document E and whether it is more cost-efficient to opt for pre-completion testing or to go down the Robust Details route.

Below is a brief overview that we hope will help answer some questions you may have.

Complying with Building Regulations Approved Document E - Pre-completion testing or Robust Details?

Essentially there are two possible routes to satisfying the requirements of Approved Document E (ADE) for new build residential dwellings. These are either commission Pre-Completion Testing (PCT) of a sample of separating walls and floors between dwellings in your development by a suitably qualified acoustic consultant, or you can register and build the dwellings in your development in accordance with your preferred Robust Details (RD) construction types.

We all know that Robust Details is a good scheme that attains high levels of compliance with ADE. However, there are some limitations:

Robust Details (RD)

- Can only be used for new build dwellings in England & Wales – they don't apply to refurbishment or conversion projects, so these must be tested.
- Limited flexibility, as separating walls and floors must be built 'strictly in accordance' with the details in the RD Handbook
- Not all RD walls and floors qualify for Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) credits

Pre-Completion Testing (PCT)

- Can be undertaken on any dwelling, either new build or conversion, to demonstrate compliance with ADE
- Complete flexibility in cost effective design of separating walls and floors (of course, we strongly advise that HRS Acoustics are brought in at an early stage to advise on the acoustic aspects of the design)
- As well as showing compliance with ADE, the test results can also be used for increased award of CSH credits.

If you have any questions or need help, advice or a quotation, please e-mail rebecca.oxley@hrsservices.co.uk or call: 0800 030 4391

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