Acoustic floors: the complete build-up

An added board is one component of a sound-control system.

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1 Airborne sound

Mass, separation and sealed junctions work together to reduce transmission of voices and other airborne sound.

2 Impact sound

A suitable resilient layer helps limit footsteps reaching the structure. Keep perimeter isolation continuous.

3 Structural support

Confirm the deck and joists can carry all added dead and imposed loads. A topping board is not automatically a structural deck.

4 Ceiling and cavity

Specify cavity absorption, resilient support and ceiling layers as part of the tested or assessed assembly.

5 Avoid acoustic bridges

Rigid fixings, service penetrations and perimeter contact can bypass the isolation layer.

6 Use system evidence

Check the complete floor/ceiling test report and relevant project sound requirements. Do not assign a dB improvement to a board alone.

Performance belongs to the full assembly, including junctions and workmanship.

REFERENCE GUIDANCE

GOV.UK: Approved Document E

Use current product instructions and the approved project design. For regulations, confirm the UK nation, applicable edition and transitional arrangements.

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