



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Preparation

#### **How do you require the site?**

The site needs to be finished except for furniture and soft coverings. Some may call it a second fix stage. Please read our preparation page and download our site questionnaire.

#### **I won't have power onsite, can you still test?**

Yes; as long as we can be provided with an extension reel which can be fed under closed internal doors. In most cases carpets will still be required to be fitted so a gap under the door will be present. As windows must be closed we cannot accept power leads through them.

#### **Can you test with no windows fitted?**

No

### Before Testing

#### **If you only test 2 rooms in my flat, does that mean I only need to insulate 2 rooms?**

No; you are required to insulate the full party floor area. The tests are representative of the entire party floor and are limited for a variety of technical and economical reasons.

#### **Can you help me with my specification before I start work on my development?**

APT Acoustics offer a wide range on consultancy and specification services. We pride ourselves on our low cost specification help for small developers and builders.

#### **I'm happy with my specification but I would like confirmation that it's suitable before I confirm my test. Can you help?**

We would be happy to complete a basic specification appraisal before every test.

#### **If my specification wasn't sufficient would you still test knowing?**

APT Acoustics would give you the choice. Should we not be sure then a sound test would be the best way to proceed however should it be clear to us that your construction is poor then we would recommend upgrade works before testing. We aim to build long term working relationships not short term gains.

#### **Do you choose the rooms to be sound tested?**

The sound tests should be chosen by the Building Control Officer however in most cases they will accept our professional opinion. APT Acoustics is a UKAS accredited company so our expertise and experience in acoustics allow us to make the best choices.

## **During Testing**

### **What type of testing is Sound Testing? Does it involve playing music?**

Sound Testing is a more generic name given to the testing of a separating element between 2 spaces. In most cases it refers to the Accredited Part E testing required for Building Regulations. For walls airborne tests are required using a sound source. For floors both airborne (a sound source) and impact tests (a tapping test) are required. And no we don't play music, APT Acoustics only uses Pink Noise.

### **Can I still have people working onsite while you test?**

You can but they must be only completing quiet activities during our testing. Health and Safety must also be considered as we create high volumes of noise.

### **If I fail a sound test do I need to complete remedial work?**

Yes; you will be required to improve the failed tested areas and have them retested until they pass.

### **Will the remedial works be required to only the tested area or the whole party divide?**

Typically you would be required to upgrade the whole party divide as the test is only a representative sample. In some cases only the test area would require remedial works if it can be proven that it is an isolated problem to that particular room.

### **Will retesting be required after a failed test or will proof of remedial work satisfy?**

In virtually all cases retesting is required. In some cases, difficult or awkward sound test results/scenarios, may allow for a 'deem to satisfy' situation to occur.

### **If I fail a test will you tell me why and how to fix the problem? Do you charge Extra?**

Yes, we offer free remedial advice after a failed test. Finding the cause of a failure can be difficult but in most cases APT Acoustics experience allows us to make accurate assessments.

### **How long does a Sound Test take?**

A UKAS accredited sound test is very thorough and accurate therefore expect it to take an average of 3 hours. Times can vary based on the number of sound tests required.

## **After Testing**

### **Will you provide me with a report?**

Yes; we provide all our clients with an UKAS accredited (No 4340) report and certificates.

### **How long will my report take? Some companies take up to 2 weeks!**

We aim to provide all sound testing reports within 4 working days subject to conditions. We appreciate time is money!

## **General Sound Testing Questions**

### **Since when has sound testing been compulsory?**

Pre completion Testing came into force in July 2003

**Do you test a single detached house?**

Not if it is a single dwelling. Tests are only required when party divide is created, however if the detached property is a block of flats then normal testing rules apply.

**Do you test internal Floors?**

We only test floors which divide individual dwellings.

**Can I undertake a sound test myself?**

You can test yourself if you know what you are doing however it would not be accepted by Building Control. Tests must be conducted by professional third party bodies with accreditation, at this time the preferred body is UKAS

**Should I use a Non Accredited company?**

Certainly not. Would you risk your money with a non qualified financial advisor? Or your electrics with a non certified electrician? Of course not so please don't take the risk. We would suggest only using UKAS accredited companies as your best option.

**Do you charge full price for a retest if my first test with you fails?**

No; as an existing and values customer we will offer discount on your retest, as long as you have a national agreement with APT Acoustics, and the original tests were conducted by ourselves of course.

*We hope that the above information has been useful and informative; if you have any other questions/queries please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@airpressuretesting.net](mailto:info@airpressuretesting.net)*