



Material Datasheet

PART E

Use of ReadyBlock® for compliance with the 2003 Edition of The Building Regulations (England & Wales) – Resistance to the Passage of Sound

BASIC REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET

Part E of the Building Regulations defines the requirements for acceptable control of the spread of noise within buildings and to adjoining buildings. Part E is applied in England and Wales as a requirement of the Local Authority planning approval process before a building can be constructed from new, or substantial alterations can be made to an existing construction.

Masonry wall constructions to which Regulations are applied are:

- Party walls which form the separation between areas of independent occupation
- The inner leaf of external walls in the vicinity of a party wall
- The internal walls within a building area of single occupation

1) TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PARTY WALL

There are two alternative procedural ways of meeting the Part E requirements for party walls using ReadyBlock®

- Opt to use a registered **Robust Detail**. A robust detail is a design of wall that has been pre-approved by 'Robust Details Ltd.' and provided their fee is paid and the detail is followed in construction then the wall built will be accepted as suitably sound resistant without pre-completion sound testing. (Designs of walls that meet Robust Detail requirements using ReadyBlock® are as detailed in The Robust Details Ltd Handbook).

- Use one of the technical solutions as detailed in Part E which use minimum wall mass to anticipate compliance. These designs are suggested as normally compliant as regards sound reduction and therefore suitable to gain approval for construction.

- 1) **Wall Type 1.1** – Solid party wall, 215mm width, block laid flat, 13mm plaster each side, requirement = 415kg/m². This type can be built using any ReadyBlock® solid dense block type laid flat.
- 2) **Wall Type 2.1** – 50mm cavity party wall, 100mm block type, 13mm plaster each side, requirement = 415kg/m². This type of wall can be built using ReadyBlock® 100mm solid dense blocks.
- 3) **Wall Type 2.2** – 75mm cavity party wall, 100mm block type, 13mm plaster each side, requirement = 300kg/m². This type of wall can be built using ReadyBlock® 1400 solid lightweight blocks.
- 4) **Wall Type 3.2** – Solid core of 140mm width lightweight block + Independent wall panels party wall, requirement = 150kg/m² (for core). This type of wall can be built using ReadyBlock® 1400 solid lightweight blocks.
- 5) **Wall Type 3.3** – 50mm cavity core of 100mm width blocks + Independent wall panels party wall, requirement = No density requirement (for core). This type of wall can be built using any 100mm wide ReadyBlock®.

As the above designs are not presently registered with Robust Details it is necessary to have a pre-completion sound test conducted after construction before full acceptance of compliance with Part E can be obtained.

2) TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INNER LEAF OF EXTERNAL WALLS IN THE VICINITY OF A PARTY WALL OR A SEPARATING FLOOR

The requirement here is to prevent excessive sound transmission around the ends of a party wall or a separating floor. The potential sound path is through the inner leaf of the flanking external wall and via the connecting cavity.

If there is no separating floors, the party wall is a Type 2.1 or the party wall is a Type 3 and the independent panels continue along the flanking wall then there is no sound reduction requirement and any ReadyBlock[®] can be used.

If there is a separating floor, the party wall is a Type 1.1 or Type 2.2 or the party wall is a Type 3 and the independent panels finish at the flanking wall junction then a minimum mass of 120kg/m² needs to be applied to the inner leaf of the flanking wall. To comply with this requirement any ReadyBlock[®] can be used except for the 100mm 850 and 1100 solid lightweight blocks.

3) TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INTERNAL WALLS WITHIN BUILDING AREAS OF SINGLE OCCUPATION

This is a new requirement and applies to walls within a single occupancy building. To meet this requirement using ReadyBlock[®] requires a wall plastered or plasterboarded on both sides and a minimum mass of 120kg/m². To comply with this requirement any ReadyBlock[®] can be used except for the 100mm 850 and 1100 solid lightweight blocks.

**For more information contact our ReadyBlock[®] Helpline
Tel: 0800 667 827.**