

The City of New York  
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION  
Department of Buildings

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 1972

TO: Borough Superintendents

FROM: Thomas V. Burke, P.E., Director of Operations

SUBJECT: NOISE CONTROL IN MULTIPLE DWELLINGS  
Section 1208.2 Administrative Code  
Acoustical Isolation of Dwelling Unit in Occupancy Group J-2

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BACKGROUND:

Section 1208.2 Administrative Code, subdivision (a)(1), states that for permits issued after January 1, 1972, doors of apartments opening on public hall, corridors or stairs, are required to have a minimum sound transmission class (S.T.C.) rating of 35.

Note also, that walls, partitions and floor and ceiling construction separating dwelling units from each other and from public halls, corridors or stairs, shall have an S.T.C. minimum rating of 50 in lieu of 45, for airborne noise, for permits issued after January 1, 1972.

A Local Law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to extending the time period for compliance with noise control limitations for airborne noise in regard to apartment entrance doors, and for structure borne noise in regard to floor-ceiling construction, has been adopted by the City Council and is awaiting the Mayor's signature.

The Local Law extends the time period for compliance with noise control limitations for airborne noise for apartment entrance doors to permits issued after April 30, 1973, rather than January 1, 1972, as presently provided in Section C26-1208.2(a)(1) of the code; and, makes the provisions of Section C26-1208.2(b), regarding structure-borne noise, applicable only to permits issued after April 30, 1973.

The Local Law was made necessary since it is not possible to comply with present law, particularly since apartment entrance doors conforming to sound transmission class of 35 are not available. Moreover, a period of time will have to elapse to test doors conforming to the required standard prior to their availability on the market. In addition, for the purpose of letting out contracts on a competitive basis, approval of such conforming doors should be obtained by as many manufacturers as possible.

It is obvious that a considerable period of time must elapse for testing and construction of apartment entrance doors to achieve the standard of sound reduction mandated by the Administrative Code.

Note that except for apartment entrance doors, no waiver of airborne noise requirements (S.T.C. rating) was provided.

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REQUIRED ACTION:

A. Plan Examiners are to be instructed to have noise control requirements noted on plans, and they shall require that the proposed construction be approved for such rating in accord with C26-1208.2 as now in effect.

Attention is directed to Directive No. 1 of 1970, dated January 15, 1970, item "C" which states:

"Acoustical Isolation of Dwelling Units: Under the provisions of section C26-1208.2, partitions and floor and ceiling construction must be approved for minimum sound transmission class. Also, such construction must have a minimum impact noise rating. The construction therefore requires acceptance by the Materials and Equipment Acceptance Division of this department unless the material or assembly is acceptable under Reference Standards RS12-2, and RS12-3 as applicable".

B. Permanent certificates of occupancy for new multiple dwellings are not to be issued unless there is full compliance with the acoustical isolation requirements of Administrative Code section C26-1208.2. Compliance may be determined by either of two methods.

Method (1): Building Components that require acoustical isolation must be B.S. & A. approved or M.E.A.D. accepted, or acceptable under Reference Standards RS12-2 and RS12-3, as applicable.

Method (2) Field Testing -

The owner must engage the services of a sound measuring organization to measure the S.T.C. and I.N.R. of floors and walls between dwelling units. Sound measurements shall be taken in at least 25% of the dwelling units. The precise location shall be filed (by amendment) for approval prior to conducting the tests. The amendment shall also state the date that noise measurements are to be taken.

The results of such measurements shall not fail by more than 5 points to meet any S.T.C. or I.N.R. requirements.

The following laboratories have submitted acoustical test reports to the M.E.A. Division: Tests conducted by such laboratories and related reports may be accepted for indication of code compliance. Construction may be accepted where code compliance is shown.

a. Kodaras Acoustical Laboratories  
75-02 51st Avenue  
Elmhurst, N.Y.

- 3 -
- b. Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories  
P.O. Box 189  
Geneva, Illinois 60134
  - c. Cedar Knolls Acoustical Laboratories  
9 Saddle Road  
Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 07927
  - d. Geiger and Hamme Inc.  
P.O. Box 1345  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

C. 1. For permits issued before January 1, 1972:

Walls, partitions and floor-ceiling constructions separating dwelling units from each other or from public halls, corridors or stairs S.T.C. 45 (minimum) before April 30, 1973.

2. For permits issued after January 1, 1972:

Walls, partitions and floor-ceiling construction separating dwelling units from each other or from public halls, corridors or stairs - S.T.C. 50 (minimum).

3. For permits issued after April 30, 1973:

- a. Walls, partitions and floor-ceiling constructions separating dwelling units from each other or from public halls, corridors or stairs S.T.C. 50 (minimum).
- b. Floor-ceiling constructions separating dwelling units from each other or from public halls or corridors - I.N.R. of 0 (minimum).
- c. Dwelling unit entrance doors - S.T.C. 35 (minimum).

4. General requirements: (Effective December 6, 1969)

- a. Penetrations or openings in walls, partitions, or floors for pipe sleeves, medicine cabinets, hampers, electric devices, or similar items shall be packed, sealed, lined, backplastered, or otherwise isolated by sufficient mass to maintain the required S.T.C. ratings.
- b. Where grilles, registers or diffusers in one dwelling unit are connected by ductwork with grilles registers, or diffusers in another dwelling unit, and where such connecting duct is less than 7 feet long, it shall be lined with duct lining; otherwise, an approved sound attenuating device shall be installed therein. Duct lining shall conform to the requirements of article 13.

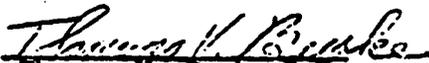
D. During the pendency of the proposed Local Law, temporary certificates of occupancy, where requested by the owner, may be issued for new multiple dwellings not meeting the acoustical isolation requirements of Administrative Code section C26-1208.2 with respect to airborne noise transmission of apartment entrance doors and structure-borne noise transmission in floor-ceiling construction. Temporary certificates of occupancy may be issued provided all of the following conditions are complied with in all respects:

- a. Tests showing compliance with required S.T.C. ratings (airborne noise for walls and partitions) must be submitted, unless building components that require acoustical isolation are B.S. & A. approved or M.E.A.D. accepted or are acceptable under Reference Standards RS12-2 and RS12-3 as applicable.
- b. The request for temporary certificate of occupancy shall be accompanied by the owner's Statement acknowledging his obligation to provide the acoustical isolation called for the Administrative Code section C26-1208.2 in all respects as it relates to walls, partitions, floor-ceiling construction separating dwelling units from each other or from public halls, corridors or stairs, as well as for apartment entrance door (if required).

The owner shall state that he will complete remedial acoustical isolation construction before one calendar year from the date of issuance of the first temporary certificate of occupancy or rejection of the proposed Local Law relating to noise control in new multiple dwellings presently before The Mayor, whichever occurs first.

- c. Compliance with section 301 MULTIPLE DWELLING LAW as it relates to temporary certificate of occupancies is adhered to.

TVB/PEO/sl

  
Thomas V. Burke, P.E.  
Director of Operations