CONSULTANTS IN NOISE & VIBRATION

Commercial 1 (Unit 27) 637-645 Forest Road Bexley NSW 2207 +612 9587 9702

office@koikasacoustics.com

www.koikasacoustics.com

DELIVERING SOUND ADVICE

ABN: 12 058 524 771

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE

IMPACT SOUND INSULATION

HYBRID FLOORING

QUALIMAX FLOORING

Date: 23 October 2024 File Reference: 6327C20241022tbQualimaxFlooring

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Project title	Certificate o	f Performanc	e				
	Impact Sour	nd Insulation					
	Hybrid Flooi	ring					
	Qualimax Fl	ooring					
Project number	6327						
Document reference	6327C20241	6327C20241022tbQualimaxFlooring					
Document path	G:\Shared drives\KA Acoustics 2024\REPORT\Partition Testing Impact\6327 (wm) Oualimax Flooring\6327C20241022tbOualimaxFlooring.docx						
	Qualinaxit	001116(05210					
Date	Author	Review	Notes				
23/10/2024	ТВ	AS	Report available for issue				
Prepared by	Tony Basa		Member of the Australian Acoustical Society - MAAS				
	Acoustical C	onsultant					
Approved by	Adam Semp	le	Member of the Australian Acoustical Society - MAAS				
	Managing Co	onsultant (Ac	oustics)				
	AS	ß	Acoustical Society				
Client	Qualimax Fl	ooring					
	Attention: S	han					
	Email: <u>admi</u>	<u>n@qualimaxf</u>	flooring.com.au				
	Phone: 02 78	809 4930					

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ACOUSTICAL REPORT

IMPACT SOUND INSULATION OF HYBRID FLOORING

QUALIMAX FLOORING

Contents

1.0	CO	NSULTANT'S BRIEF
2.0	IM	PACT NOISE TESTING
2.1 2.2		PARTITION SYSTEM
2	.2.1	BCA REQUIREMENT6
2	.2.2	AAAC STAR RATING PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS6
3.0	AS	SESSMENT/TESTING PROCEDURES7
3.1		PARTITION TESTING7
3	.1.1	Generation of the sound field in the source room7
3	.1.2	Receiving space measurement7
3	.1.3	Reverberation time and background noise7
4.0	ME	ASURED RESULTS AND ANALYSIS8
5.0	CO	NCLUSION

Appendices

Appendix A: Calculations and Graphs for Impact Noise Testing

Figures

Figure 1.	Wall / Joinery details (skirting board & scotia)	9
Figure 2.	Wall / Joinery details (skirting board)	.0



1.0 CONSULTANT'S BRIEF

Qualimax Flooring commissioned Koikas Acoustics to perform acoustic testing of the following products and systems (listed below) to establish their performance in terms of impact sound insulation.

- 1. 9 mm Hybrid Flooring
- 2. 9 mm Hybrid Flooring + 3 mm Rubber Underlay
- 3. 9 mm Hybrid Flooring + 5 mm Rubber Underlay
- 4. 12 mm Hybrid Flooring
- 5. 12 mm Hybrid Flooring + 3 mm Rubber Underlay
- 6. 12 mm Hybrid Flooring + 5 mm Rubber Underlay

All tests were conducted above a base floor system consisting of a 200 mm thick concrete slab with a suspended plasterboard ceiling of unknown depth. An additional test was conducted on this base floor substrate in addition to the sample tests with the floor cover products.

Test results are presented against the following acoustic standards and guidelines:

- National Construction Code 2022 (Vol. 1 Building Code of Australia Part F7).
- Association of Australasian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC) guideline for apartment and townhouse acoustic rating (v1.0, 2017).

All measurements were carried out as per the guidelines and procedures outlined in:

• ISO 16283-2:2020 Acoustics - Field measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements - Part 2: Impact sound insulation.

The rating was determined as per:

• AS ISO 717.2-2004 "Rating of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements".



2.0 IMPACT NOISE TESTING

2.1 PARTITION SYSTEM

The acoustic tests were completed at 207/27 Hill Road Wentworth Point NSW 2127. According to a previous test performed at this site the structural floor above which the floor coverings and underlay products were placed is constructed of 200 mm concrete + a suspended plasterboard ceiling with an unknown cavity size.

The following floor coverings and underlay samples were tested. Each sample tested was approximately 1 m^2 .

- Test 0: Bare concrete floor for comparison purposes only
- Test 1: 12 mm hybrid flooring
- Test 2: 12 mm hybrid flooring + 3 mm rubber underlay
- Test 3: 12 mm hybrid flooring + 5 mm rubber underlay
- Test 4: 9 mm hybrid flooring
- Test 5: 9 mm hybrid flooring + 3 mm rubber underlay
- Test 6: 9 mm hybrid flooring + 5 mm rubber underlay

2.2 IMPACT NOISE REQUIREMENTS

2.2.1 BCA REQUIREMENT

The BCA 2022 requires a floor in a Class 2 or Class 3 building to have a weighted standardised impact sound pressure level (L'_{nTw}), not more than 62 determined under AS/ISO 717.2 if it separates sole-occupancy units.

2.2.2 AAAC STAR RATING PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Reproduced from the Association of Australasian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC) Guideline for Apartment and Townhouse Acoustic Ratings, the following Table (Section C) describes the acoustic ratings regarding the Star Rating System.

Table 1. Star Rating requirements for inter-tenancy activities - Published by the AAAC								
INTER-TENANCY ACTIVITIES 2 Star 3 Star 4 Star 5 Star 6 Star								
(c) Impact isolation of floors								
- Between tenancies LnTw ≤	65	55	50	45	40			
 Between all other spaces & tenancies LnTw ≤ 	65	55	50	45	40			



3.0 ASSESSMENT/TESTING PROCEDURES

3.1 PARTITION TESTING

3.1.1 Generation of the sound field in the source room

The sound field was generated by a Cesva MI006 Tapping Machine situated in the source room on the specific floor under test. Several measurement positions on each floor were tested as required by the standard.

3.1.2 Receiving space measurement

Impact noise levels were recorded in the receiving space with an NTi Audio XL2 spectrum analyser sound level meter. The spatial-averaging method of measurement was employed for impact noise tests with relevant traverse durations and minimum distances to reflectors and boundary walls observed.

3.1.3 Reverberation time and background noise

Additional measurements were taken of the background noise (Lb) and reverberation time (T). The background noise measurement was used to ensure that existing ambient noise did not influence the internal noise measurement. The reverberation time was used to calculate the amount of absorption (A) in the receiving room so that the measurement can be standardised to a reference reverberation time of 0.5 seconds.

4.0 MEASURED RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the acoustic tests are tabulated below. Comprehensive measurement and analysis data are presented as an Appendix to this report. The ratings provided below indicate the performance of the floor and floor coverings in this specific test environment. The results are not transferable between test environments or buildings.

Table 2. Summary of impact noise test res	ults			
Flooring Sample	L'nī,w	ΔL	AAAC Star Rating	FIIC
Test 00 : Bare concrete floor – for comparison purposes only	54	-	3	52
Test 01 : 12 mm hybrid flooring	36	18	6	74
Test 02 : 12 mm hybrid flooring + 3 mm rubber underlay	37	17	6	73
Test 03 : 12 mm hybrid flooring + 5 mm rubber underlay	38	16	6	72
Test 04 : 9 mm hybrid flooring	36	18	6	74
Test 05 : 9 mm hybrid flooring + 3 mm rubber underlay	37	17	6	73
Test 06 : 9 mm hybrid flooring + 5 mm rubber underlay	36	18	6	74
Definitions UnT,w L'nT,w Weighted standardised impact sound AL Improvement in impact sound level FIIC Field Impact Insulation Class.	d pressure level (dE for a floating floor r	3). relative to a base fl	oor (dB).	

Definitions

- L'_{nT,w} is defined as the weighted impact sound pressure level standardised to a reference reverberation time of 0.5 seconds. As the value represents a noise level, the lower the value the better the acoustic performance.
- 2. The Star Rating is a performance metric derived by the AAAC and is directly related to the measured L_{'nT,w}. A higher Star Rating indicates improved acoustic performance.
- 3. ΔL is the improvement in impact sound insulation resulting from a floating floor when assessed against a base floor. The greater the value (improvement) the better the performance.
- 4. FIIC is the Field Impact Insulation Classification and is a measure of sound insulation thus the higher the value the better the performance.



Performance

- 5. BCA 2022 compliance is achieved for all tested floor coverings/systems as well as the bare substrate.
- 6. AAAC Star Rating 6 is achieved for all tested floor coverings and underlays.
- 7. AAAC Star Rating 3 is achieved for the tested substrate with no floor covering.

General installation advice:

- 8. During installation, and to achieve the maximum acoustic performance, it is expected and recommended that hard floor coverings shall not contact walls or joinery (kitchen benches, cupboards etc). Temporary spacers of 5~10 mm should be used to isolate the floor covering from walls and/or joineries and the resulting gaps should be filled with a suitable mastic type sealant or off-cut of underlay or the equivalent where available. The acoustic integrity could be degraded if the above precautions and treatments are not implemented. Refer to Figures 1 and 2 below for details of the proper installation of flooring materials.
- 9. Product installation details and methodologies must be sought from the product supplier, installer or other experts. Koikas Acoustics is not liable for any product defects.



Figure 1. Wall / Joinery details (skirting board & scotia)





Figure 2. Wall / Joinery details (skirting board)

Limitations/disclaimer

- 10. The information contained herein should not be reproduced except in full.
- 11. The information provided in this report relates to acoustic matters only. Supplementary advice should be sought for other matters relating to flooring installation, construction, design, structural, fire-rating, waterproofing and the like.
- 12. The acoustic ratings provided in this report are indicative of a 1 m² sample and should be used for comparative purposes only. A fully laid floor is expected to yield a lesser performance (higher impact sound level).
- 13. Acoustic ratings will vary depending on:
 - the testing environment/conditions,
 - materials/structures of the existing ceiling/floor system,
 - room volume,
 - internal layout and
 - workmanship.



5.0 CONCLUSION

Koikas Acoustics conducted acoustic testing for a range of hybrid flooring products and systems for Qualimax Flooring. The objective was to determine the impact sound insulation performance of various flooring configurations, including hybrid flooring with and without rubber underlay, installed over a 200 mm concrete slab with a suspended plasterboard ceiling.

The testing results indicated that all flooring systems, including both 9 mm and 12 mm hybrid flooring options (with or without underlay), complied with the acoustic performance requirements of the BCA 2022 and achieved a 6-star rating under the AAAC guidelines. These flooring systems demonstrated excellent impact sound insulation, with L'nTw values of 36-38 dB and FIIC ratings of 72-74, confirming their suitability for high-performance acoustic environments. In comparison, the bare concrete floor achieved a lower performance level with a 3-star rating.

To ensure maximum acoustic performance during installation, it is recommended that hard flooring coverings be isolated from walls and joinery, with appropriate spacers and sealants used to maintain acoustic integrity. Failure to follow these installation guidelines may degrade the overall performance of the flooring system.

This assessment provides reliable guidance for selecting hybrid flooring systems that meet both regulatory and high-performance acoustic standards, making them suitable for residential or commercial applications subject to the required acoustic performance standards and any underlying limitations of the base building.



APPENDIX A

A P P E N D I X

Α

APPENDIX A

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

Date of Test :

20

10

-10

50 63 80 100 125 160 200 250 315 400 500 630 800

Third Octave Band, f. [Hz]

koikas acoustics :::



1000 1250 1600 2000 2500 3150 4000 5000

Ci:

Spectrum adaption term is a low frequency correction factor. Typically for massive floors such as concrete, the values are about zero while for timber joist floors Ci is positive because of the low resonant frequencies. Considers frequency range between 100 -and 2500 Hz.

Ci(50-2500):

Same as above, but for the frequency range 50 -2500 Hz.

Ci(125-2000):

	AAAC Star R.	2	3	4	5	6
	L'nT,w	65	55	50	45	40
1	FIIC	45	55	60	65	70
	Comments	Below BCA 62	Clearly Audible	Audible	Barely Audible	Normally Inaudible

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

6327

Date of Test :

Project No. :

koikas acoustics :::



to 10 m² as described in ASTM E989. The higher the single-number rating, the better its impact insulation performance.

L'nT.w:

The Weighted Standardised Impact Sound Pressure Level when measured in situ referenced to a reverberation time (RT60) of 0.5 seconds. Used by the AAAC to determine their respective Star Rating.

Ci:

Spectrum adaption term is a low frequency correction factor. Typically for massive floors such as concrete, the values are about zero while for timber joist floors Ci is positive because of the low resonant frequencies. Considers frequency range between 100 -and 2500 Hz.

Ci(50-2500):

Same as above, but for the frequency range 50 -2500 Hz.

Ci(125-2000):

	AAAC Star R.	2	3	4	5	6
L	L'nT,w	65	55	50	45	40
L	FIIC	45	55	60	65	70
	Comments	Below BCA 62	Clearly Audible	Audible	Barely Audible	Normally Inaudible

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

6327

Date of Test :

Project No. :

20

10

-10

50

80 100 125 160 200 250 315 400 500 630 800

63

0 0 0

Third Octave Band, f. [Hz]

koikas acoustics :::

1000 1250 1600 2000 2500 3150 4000 5000

Ci:

Spectrum adaption term is a low frequency correction factor. Typically for massive floors such as concrete, the values are about zero while for timber joist floors Ci is positive because of the low resonant frequencies. Considers frequency range between 100 -and 2500 Hz.

Ci(50-2500):

Same as above, but for the frequency range 50 -2500 Hz.

Ci(125-2000):

AAAC Star R.	2	3	4	5	6
L'nT,w	65	55	50	45	40
FIIC	45	55	60	65	70
Comments	Below BCA 62	Clearly Audible	Audible	Barely Audible	Normally Inaudible

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

6327

Date of Test :

Project No. :

koikas acoustics :::

Improvement of impact sound insulation delta L between (sub-base with underlay and floor covering) and (sub- base) Impact Noise Reduction [dB] 30 20 10 100 125 160 200 250 315 400 500 630 800 1000 1250 1600 2000 2500 3150 4000 5000 50 63 Third Octave Band, f. [Hz] -10

L'nT,w: The Weighted Standardised Impact Sound Pressure Level when measured in situ referenced to a reverberation time (RT60) of 0.5 seconds. Used by the AAAC to determine their respective Star Ration.

Ci:

Spectrum adaption term is a low frequency correction factor. Typically for massive floors such as concrete, the values are about zero while for timber joist floors Ci is positive because of the low resonant frequencies. Considers frequency range between 100 -and 2500 Hz.

Ci(50-2500):

Same as above, but for the frequency range 50 -2500 Hz.

Ci(125-2000):

AAAC Star R.	2	3	4	5	6
L'nT,w	65	55	50	45	40
FIIC	45	55	60	65	70
Comments	Below BCA 62	Clearly Audible	Audible	Barely Audible	Normally Inaudible

20

10

-10

50

80 100 125 160 200 250 315 400 500 630 800

63

0.0

Third Octave Band, f. [Hz]

koikas acoustics :::

Ci:

22

1000 1250 1600 2000 2500 3150 4000 5000

Spectrum adaption term is a low frequency correction factor. Typically for massive floors such as concrete, the values are about zero while for timber joist floors Ci is positive because of the low resonant frequencies. Considers frequency range between 100 -and 2500 Hz.

Ci(50-2500):

Same as above, but for the frequency range 50 -2500 Hz.

Ci(125-2000):

	AAAC Star R.	2	3	4	5	6
	L'nT,w	65	55	50	45	40
1	FIIC	45	55	60	65	70
	Comments	Below BCA 62	Clearly Audible	Audible	Barely Audible	Normally Inaudible

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

Date of Test :

koikas acoustics :::

Improvement of impact sound insulation delta L between (sub-base with underlay and floor covering) and (sub-base with floor covering) 40 Improvement of impact sound insulation delta L between (sub-base with underlay and floor covering) and (sub- base) Impact Noise Reduction [dB] 30 20 15 12 10 0.0 0 50 100 125 160 200 250 315 400 500 630 800 1000 1250 1600 2000 2500 3150 4000 5000 63 80 Third Octave Band, f. [Hz] -10

Field Impact Insulation Class is a single-number rating of how well a floor system attenuates impact type sounds, such as footsteps. Calculated from third-octave band normalised impact sound pressure level data and referenced to 10 m^2 as described in ASTM E989. The higher the single-number rating, the better its impact insulation performance.

L'nT,w:

The Weighted Standardised Impact Sound Pressure Level when measured in situ referenced to a reverberation time (RT60) of 0.5 seconds. Used by the AAAC to determine their respective Star Rating.

Ci:

Spectrum adaption term is a low frequency correction factor. Typically for massive floors such as concrete, the values are about zero while for timber joist floors Ci is positive because of the low resonant frequencies. Considers frequency range between 100 -and 2500 Hz.

Ci(50-2500):

Same as above, but for the frequency range 50 -2500 Hz.

Ci(125-2000):

	AAAC Star R.	2	3	4	5	6
l	L'nT,w	65	55	50	45	40
	FIIC	45	55	60	65	70
	Comments	Below BCA 62	Clearly Audible	Audible	Barely Audible	Normally Inaudible