

Building Code Clause G6 Workshop

The Department of Building and Housing issued a proposed revision to Clause G6 of the New Zealand Building Code in October 2010 for public comment. The Department then established a technical reference group to develop the proposed revision taking into account feedback received. The members of the reference group are Stephen Chiles, Richard Finley, Jeffrey Mahn, and Jeremy Trevathan.

The Acoustical Society of New Zealand has organised this workshop as part of its 21st Biennial conference in conjunction with the now Building and Housing Group of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The main aim is to provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss the technical challenges associated with the potential Clause G6 revision, and provide comment on the options proposed by the technical reference group. The workshop will be facilitated by the members of the technical reference group. The programme is:

Introduction A representative of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will provide an overview of the development and consultation undertaken for Clause G6, and their expectations and goals for the workshop. They will also explain possible implications of moving towards performance specification and risk based consenting.

International benchmarks Jeffrey Mahn will compare the performance requirements of the existing and proposed Clause G6 with those used in other countries, and with respect to occupant satisfaction.

Testing and compliance Members of the reference group will give short presentations on sound insulation standards and options for demonstrating compliance. There will be an open discussion on issues associated with laboratory versus field ratings, verification by design or pre-completion testing, and use of Acceptable Solutions.

Open session The agenda focusses on the key areas where there are technical challenges, and does not cover all proposed and possible issues associated with Clause G6. This open session has therefore been set aside in the programme for attendees to raise any other topics that they would like to discuss. All attendees are encouraged to re-review the 2010 consultation draft (www.dbh.govt.nz/consultingon-noise) prior to the workshop and identify any questions they may have.

Impact sound Case studies will be presented illustrating challenges associated with impact sound performance requirements, particularly associated with issues such as horizontal impact and impacts on walls. There will be an open discussion on appropriate control measures and metrics, including suggestions by the reference group such as a ΔL_w requirement for horizontal impact and inclusion of construction gaps/isolation for cupboard door slams.

Environmental sound The issues associated with regulating sound levels inside dwellings from external sources will be summarised. Case studies will be presented showing possible interactions between controls under the Resource Management Act and the Building Act, and the challenges in establishing the appropriate demarcation. There will be an open discussion on which external sound sources should be under Building Code control, and appropriate performance requirements and acceptable solutions.

Closing The Ministry representatives will summarise the key messages heard during the workshop. It is intended that this may also be formally recorded in a technical note in the ASNZ Journal later in the year.