

# Revisions to the noise requirements of the Building Code and Compliance Documents<sup>\*</sup>

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## **ABSTRACT**

Excessive noise is widely recognised as being detrimental to human health. More generally, there is considerable evidence that excessive noise can reduce the wellbeing of those subject to it, and reduce productivity in the workplace. It is important that people within a building have appropriate safeguards through the design and construction of that building from illness or loss of amenity as a result of noise intrusion. The current requirements relating to insulation from airborne and impact sound are set out in Clause G6 of the Building Code and the associated Acceptable Solution G6/AS1. Key weaknesses identified in the current Building Code, and the experiences of people living in multi-unit housing developments and high-rise apartments, initiated changes to update the Building Code. The part of the Purpose of the new Building Act 2004 relating to “promoting sustainable development” provided further impetus to revising the noise provisions of the Building Code. Predictions of further intensification of some of New Zealand’s urban areas provide additional impetus to ensure the Building Code provides properly for the sustainable development of those areas. The paper describes how the Building Code works to promote sustainable development through its provision for an acceptable indoor noise environment. It outlines the proposed revised requirements for noise in the Building Code, and associated Compliance Documents.

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