Part F5 of the NCC (BCA) SOUND TRANSMISSION AND INSULATION. This is a much misunderstood and misinterpreted document in terms of its acoustic intent. This is despite the Australian Building Codes Board going to great trouble to explain how it should be used. Pedantic acoustic thinking gets in the way. The simple application of the document will be explained.

Peter Knowland has been involved in the field of acoustics since 1958. Peter played an important part in the formation of the Australian Acoustics Society and the AAAC. He was involved in a number of landmark projects throughout Australia and in Auckland, Singapore, Hong Kong, Paris, Bangkok and Manila. He received the NSW Division’s first Excellence in Acoustics award for his work on the Aotea Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. Between 2000 to 2012 he was involved in convincing and subsequently assisting the Australian Building Codes Boarding in the upgrade of Part F5 of the then BCA96 which subsequently become the ground-breaking BCA 2004. Peter was commissioned by the CSIRO to assist in the investigation of the poor performance of the new sound transmission suites at the acoustic laboratory at North Ryde. He has designed 3 sound transmission suites, a small experimental one at Rintoul Seven Hills, The Lorient (now Kilargo) laboratory at Banyo Brisbane and the Exova lab at Dubai. The Kilargo and Exova labs fully comply with ISO 140-1. In the case of Exova the sound fields in the source and receiving rooms are much better than that required by 140-1. This is achieved without the use of clumsy baffles.

Joel Parry-Jones is an acoustician who joined PKA Acoustic Consulting in 2004. Joel worked alongside Peter Knowland to become an expert in building acoustics, specifically in predicting the sound insulation properties of various walls and floors. He has been pivotal in prototype testing of new building products and provides expert advice during the concept stage, acoustic laboratory testing stage and on site compliance stage. Joel provides ongoing acoustic advice to CSR Gypsum, CSR Hebel, Brickworks, AFS, UBIQ and Ultrafloor.