



SUITE 17, 808 FOREST ROAD, PEAKHURST 2210 ABN 73 107 291 494  
P. 02 9046 3800 ACOUSTICS@DAYDESIGN.COM.AU WWW.DAYDESIGN.COM.AU

# Impact Sound Insulation Measurement

Airstep Australia Pty Ltd  
'3 mm Vinyl Planks' on 'Helix' Underlay

REPORT No  
**7554-1.2R**

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**Prepared For:**  
Airstep Australia Pty Ltd  
PO Box 166  
Dandenong VIC 3175

Attention: Mr Gary Tunks



**Impact Sound Insulation Measurement****Revision History**

| Status | Date       | Prepared        | Checked       | Comment                     |
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| Draft  | 27/06/2022 | Benjamin Lamont | Stephen Gauld | By email, for client review |
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Document 7554-1.2R, 10 pages plus attachments

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**Impact Sound Insulation Measurement**

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**1.0 CONSULTING BRIEF**

Day Design was commissioned by Airstep Australia Pty Ltd to measure the impact sound insulation of a floor system incorporating their 'Helix' underlay installed beneath 3 mm 'Vinyl Planks' laminate floorboard. The measurements were conducted on site in accordance with Australian Standard AS/NZS ISO 140.7:2006 "*Acoustics – Measurements of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements – Part 7: Field measurements of impact sound insulation of floors*".

The test specimen was rated in accordance with AS ISO 717.2:2004 "*Acoustics – Rating of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements – Part 2: Impact sound insulation*".

**2.0 TESTING SPECIFICATIONS**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Location:                  | Concrete slab floor between Unit 18 and Unit 11 of 808 Forest Road, Peakhurst                     |
| Base Floor Construction:   | 270 mm thick concrete slab  |
| Receiving Room Dimensions: | Unit 11, 808 Forest Road, Peakhurst<br>Length: 6 m<br>Width: 3.9 m<br>Height: 2.75 m              |
| Receiving Room Volume      | 64 m <sup>3</sup>   |
| Test Samples:              | 2 mm thick 'Helix' rubber underlay; laid beneath 3 mm thick 'Vinyl Planks' laminated floorboards. |
| Sample sizes:              | 1778 mm x 121.92 mm x 3 mm (5 planks)   |
| Test date:                 | Thursday, 16 June 2022  |

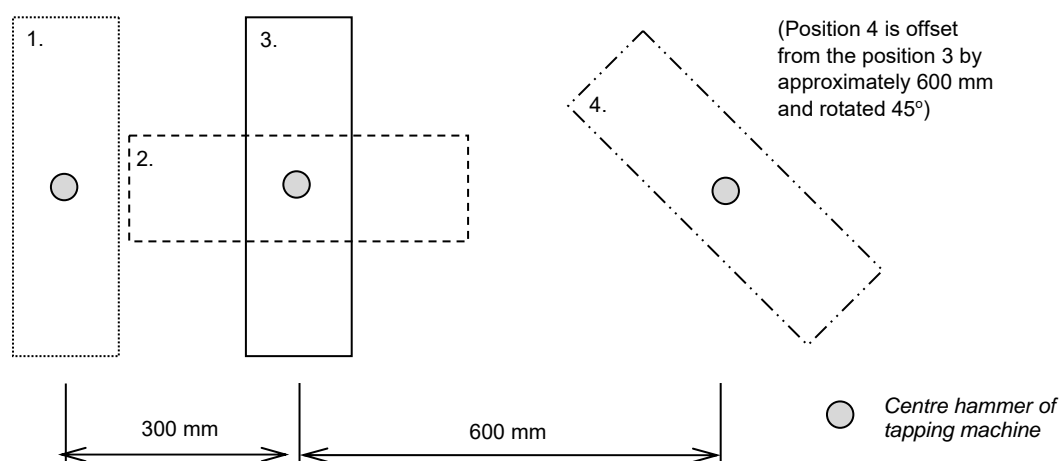


## Impact Sound Insulation Measurement

### 3.0 MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE

The impact sound insulation of a floor/ceiling system is determined by using a standard tapping machine<sup>1</sup> on the floor to generate impact noise and measuring the level of impact noise in the receiving room below.

The tapping machine is placed in 4 orientations as shown in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1. Tapping machine test orientations**

Impact noise levels in the receiving room are measured using the microphone sweep method for a period of 30 seconds per tapping machine orientation.

A background noise level measurement is carried out to account for any noise contributions from the environment and to apply appropriate corrections if required.

Reverberation time measurements are also carried out in the receiving room. The reverberation time,  $T_{60}$ , is the time it takes for a noise source to decay by 60 dB. A “live” room, such as a reverberation room, which consist of only hard surfaces, will typically have a long reverberation time. A “dead” room, such as an anechoic chamber, which consist of highly absorptive surfaces, will have a much shorter reverberation time.

Measurement of the reverberation time in the receiving room allows the measured sound insulation to be adjusted to account for the sound energy absorbed by the room.

Impact sound insulation measurements were carried out for the base floor and the base floor with the test sample to determine the improvement the test sample had on the existing floor/ceiling system.

<sup>1</sup> Brüel and Kjær Tapping Machine Type 3207



#### **4.0 IMPACT SOUND INSULATION DESCRIPTOR**

The impact sound insulation performance of a system is denoted by a single value descriptor, the weighted impact sound insulation  $L_{n,w}$  (for laboratory tested rating) or  $L'_{nT,w}$  (for field tested rating). The single value descriptor allows for easy comparisons between different systems. The lower the number, the better the impact sound insulation performance.

The rating of the system is determined by comparing the measured noise levels in the receiving room against a set of reference values between one-third-octave band centre frequency ranges of 100 Hz to 3150 Hz, as specified in AS/NSZ ISO 717.2:2004.



**Impact Sound Insulation Measurement****5.0 TEST SAMPLE DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS**

The base floor (see Section 2.0) was tested to establish a reference performance of the floor/ceiling system from which the test sample is compared to.

The test sample of 3 mm thick 'Vinyl Planks' was placed on top of 2 mm thick 'Helix' underlay, setup on top of the base floor as shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. Image of testing configuration - '3 mm Vinyl Planks' with 'Helix' underlay on base floor**

Test certificates of the measured system and base floor are provided in Appendix B respectively as 7554-1 A001 and 7554-1 A003.



## Impact Sound Insulation Measurement

The measured impact sound pressure levels (rounded to the nearest one-tenth decibel) are tabulated for each one-third-octave band measured and are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 Measured Impact Sound Pressure Levels**

| 1/3 Octave Band<br>Centre Frequency (Hz) | Standardised Impact Sound Pressure Level $L'_{nT}$ (dB) |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | Base Floor  | '3 mm Vinyl Planks'<br>+ 'Helix' underlay |
| 100                                      | 54.6B   | 48.7                                      |
| 125                                      | 54.8  | 51.2                                      |
| 160                                      | 56.3  | 54.4                                      |
| 200                                      | 57.3  | 53.7                                      |
| 250                                      | 57.1  | 51.8                                      |
| 315                                      | 57.6  | 50.7                                      |
| 400                                      | 58.2  | 49.8                                      |
| 500                                      | 58.5  | 46.4                                      |
| 630                                      | 59.4  | 44.4                                      |
| 800                                      | 60.5  | 41.1                                      |
| 1000                                     | 61.7  | 36.9                                      |
| 1250                                     | 62.6  | 31.1                                      |
| 1600                                     | 63.8  | 25.1                                      |
| 2000                                     | 64.5  | 18.3                                      |
| 2500                                     | 65.4  | 12.9                                      |
| 3150                                     | 70.8  | 11.3B                                     |
| 4000                                     | 73.5  | 14.7B                                     |
| 5000                                     | 68.3  | 13.7B                                     |
|  | <b><math>L'_{nT,w} = 72</math></b>                      | <b><math>L'_{nT,w} = 46</math></b>        |

Where the test sample impact sound pressure level is noted with the suffix "B", the value required a correction as the difference between the measured impact level and background level was less than 10 dB. This provides a conservatively high value and therefore the true impact noise level may be less than the  $L'_{nT}$  value reported.





**Impact Sound Insulation Measurement**

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**6.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Day Design was commissioned by Airstep Pty Ltd to measure the impact sound insulation of a flooring system incorporating their 'Helix' underlay product installed beneath their 3 mm 'Vinyl Planks' laminate floorboard product.

The floor/ceiling system of the 3 mm thick 'Vinyl Planks' with 'Helix' underlay laid on top of a base floor construction of 270 mm concrete, achieved a weighted impact sound insulation rating of  $L'_{nT,w}$  of 46, improving the base floor performance by  $L'_{nT,w}$  of 26 dB.

Test measurements and calculations were conducted by the undersigned.

*Benjamin Lamont*

**Benjamin Lamont**, BE (Aero), MEngSc (Mech)

Acoustical Engineer

for and on behalf of Day Design Pty Ltd

**AAAC MEMBERSHIP**

Day Design Pty Ltd is a member company of the Association of Australasian Acoustical Consultants. The work herein reported has been performed in accordance with the terms of membership.

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Instrumentation List

Appendix B – Test Certificates

- A001 – 270 mm concrete  $L'_{nT,w}$
- A003 – 270 mm concrete + 3 mm Vinyl Planks + Helix Underlay



# APPENDIX A

## INSTRUMENTATION LIST

| Description                        | Model No.   | Serial No. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Modular Precision Sound Analyser   | B&K 2270 G4 | 3011809    |
| Condenser Microphone 0.5" diameter | B&K 4189    | 3099836    |
| Acoustical Calibrator              | B&K 4231    | 2721949    |
| Tapping Machine                    | B&K 3207    | 2439141    |

All acoustic instrument systems have been laboratory calibrated using instrumentation traceable to Australian National Standards and certified within the last two years thus conforming to Australian Standards. The acoustic measurement system was also calibrated prior to and after the noise level measurements. Calibration drift was found to be less than 0.5 dB during the measurements. No adjustments for instrument drift during the measurement period were warranted.



Client:

Airstep Australia Pty Ltd

Test Specimen:

Bare Slab

Building Construction  
270 mm concrete slab

| Frequency - Hz | Standardised Impact Sound Pressure Level<br>1/3 Octave dB |
|----------------|---|
| 100            | 54.6  |
| 125            | 54.8  |
| 160            | 56.3  |
| 200            | 57.3  |
| 250            | 57.1  |
| 315            | 57.6  |
| 400            | 58.2  |
| 500            | 58.5  |
| 630            | 59.4  |
| 800            | 60.5  |
| 1000           | 61.7  |
| 1250           | 62.6  |
| 1600           | 63.8  |
| 2000           | 64.5  |
| 2500           | 65.4  |
| 3150           | 70.8  |
| 4000           | 73.5  |
| 5000           | 68.3  |
| <b>L' nT,w</b> | <b>72</b>   |

Australian Standards:

Measured according to AS/NZS ISO 140.7:2006  
Rated to AS ISO 717.2:2004

Test Specimen Dimensions:

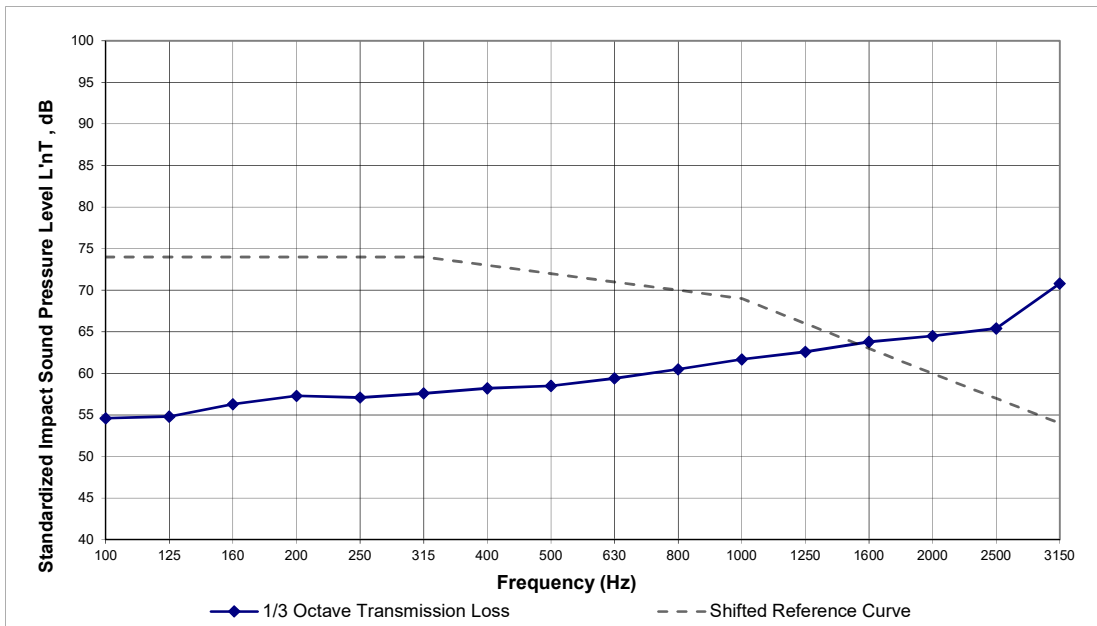
Test Location:

Unit 18 to Unit 11 below

808 Forest Road, Peakhurst, NSW

Instrumentation:

Brüel and Kjær Sound Level Meter type 2270  
Brüel and Kjær Microphone type 4189  
Brüel and Kjær Acoustical Calibrator type 4231  
Brüel and Kjær Tapping Machine type 3207



Date of Test: Thursday, 16 June 2022

Project Number: 7554-1 A001

Test Engineer: *Benjamin Lamont*

For and on behalf of Day Design Pty Ltd



Client:

**Airstep Australia Pty Ltd**

Test Specimen:

**3 mm Vinyl Planks + Helix Underlay**

**Building Construction**

270 mm concrete slab

| Frequency - Hz | Standardised Impact Sound Pressure Level<br>1/3 Octave dB |
|----------------|---|
| 100            | 48.7  |
| 125            | 51.2  |
| 160            | 54.4  |
| 200            | 53.7  |
| 250            | 51.8  |
| 315            | 50.7  |
| 400            | 49.8  |
| 500            | 46.4  |
| 630            | 44.4  |
| 800            | 41.1  |
| 1000           | 36.9  |
| 1250           | 31.1  |
| 1600           | 25.1  |
| 2000           | 18.3  |
| 2500           | 12.9  |
| 3150           | 11.3  |
| 4000           | 14.7  |
| 5000           | 13.7  |
| <b>L' nT,w</b> | <b>46</b>   |

**Australian Standards:**

Measured according to AS/NZS ISO 140.7:2006

Rated to AS ISO 717.2:2004

**Test Specimen Dimensions:**

1778 mm (L) x 122 mm (W) x 3 mm (T)

**Test Location:**

Unit 18 to Unit 11 below

808 Forest Road, Peakhurst, NSW

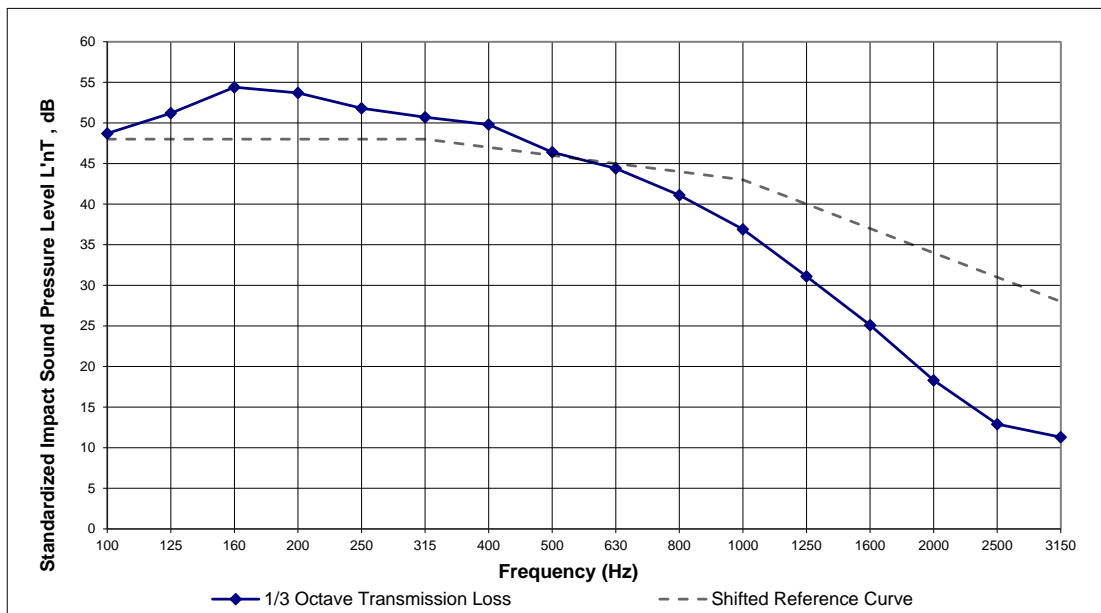
**Instrumentation:**

Brüel and Kjær Sound Level Meter type 2270

Brüel and Kjær Microphone type 4189

Brüel and Kjær Acoustical Calibrator type 4231

Brüel and Kjær Tapping Machine type 3207



Date of Test: Thursday, 16 June 2022

Project Number: 7554-1 A003

Test Engineer:

*Benjamin Lamont*

For and on behalf of Day Design Pty Ltd

