

Understanding Acoustic Performance Data



By Rebecca Hogg

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I INTRODUCTION

With more awareness of noise issues and many developments occurring in already built-up areas it is essential to provide an accurate specification of the noise emitted by building services equipment. Heat pumps located in residential areas, kitchen extract systems in commercial premises, pumps in plant rooms, and air conditioning units in office buildings are just a few examples of situations where noise issues can occur.

Acoustic testing is important to manufacturers as it enables them to provide useful data about the noise emitted by their product. Acoustic data enables specifiers to make an informed decision when selecting a product for installation in a real life situation. Products that generate intrusive levels of noise can cause noise nuisance complaints. Noise limits are also applied as a result of legislation and planning conditions.

The aim of this publication is to explain what is being measured to obtain acoustic data and why acoustic data is important and useful. Some examples of product data sheets are also used to demonstrate both good and bad practice when stating acoustic data for a product. References are made to current standards and legislation. These references are current at the time of printing, but care must be taken by the reader to check for any revisions and amendments.