

Feature 75: Internally Generated Noise

Part 1: Acoustic Plan

WELL Building Standard™ (WELL)™
WELL v1 with the Q1 2020 addenda

How to use this document:

This document is a guide for creating the professional narrative required for Part 1: Acoustic Plan Feature 75: Internally Generated Noise. This document is meant to demonstrate an acceptable degree of detail for a documentation submission. The level of detail is up to the discretion of the project team, as long as Part 1a and 1b are both sufficiently addressed.

- Part 1: Professional Narrative outline and examples have been provided.

The text is updated to the Q1 2020 version of the WELL Building Standard, which may vary from previous or future versions of WELL.

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FEATURE 75: INTERNALLY GENERATED NOISE

PART 1: ACOUSTIC PLAN

EXAMPLE PROFESSIONAL NARRATIVE

- A. The acoustic plan addresses loud and quiet zones through:
 - a. *Example 1: a variety of work zones that allow for separation between focused work and collaborative work. A focused work room, enclosed by walls of NIC of 53, consists of 10 individual cubicles that employees can reserve for 1-2 hour increments. Signage indicates that this room is intended for silent work. On the opposite end of the office, multiple small meeting rooms and 2 large conference rooms allow for collaborative work. These spaces, enclosed by walls of NIC of 45, can be reserved on the company calendar.*
 - b. *Example 2: separate work areas for employees to take phone calls. The sales division consists of many members that frequently conduct conference calls. To prevent distraction from noise intrusion, this team is located on the third-floor, while all other departments work on the second-floor. In order to reduce background noise, the third-floor walls have NRC of 0.8 and the entire ceiling has an NRC of 0.9. The third-floor also contains 5 small enclosed “call” rooms with acoustic panels of NIC 40, which can be reserved on the company calendar. In addition, each floor contains 5 noise-cancellation “phone booths” with acoustic panels of NIC 40 that are available on a first-come, first-served basis.*
 - c. *Example 3: interstitial spaces. The break room, mindful eating area and printing room are separated from the main office space by the main lobby area, which acts as a vestibule to minimize noise transfer. Additionally, these spaces are enclosed by walls with Noise Isolation Class (NIC) values of 40.*
- B. The acoustic plan addresses noisy equipment in the space through:
 - a. *Example 1: space layout and sound masking systems. In our open office space, the printers are located peripherally. Sound masking systems are used to reduce acoustic disruptions from general office work (for example: conversation, typing, phone calls), exterior noise, and printers and HVAC equipment.*
 - b. *Example 2: source separation and sound reducing surfaces. The printers are located in an enclosed space with walls designed to absorb sound: these walls have Noise Isolation Class (NIC) values of 40 and the door was constructed with a non-hollow core, gaskets at the head and jams, and an automatic drop seal at the base. Additionally, the vending machine is located in the break room, so it does not create noise disruptions in the areas designated for focused work.*
 - c. *Example 3: strategic design. The office areas (open and private), along with conference rooms, are located along the East side of the building, which is quieter. Potentially noisy equipment (such as the mechanical room, AV equipment, and the cafeteria) are placed on the West side of the office, separated by the main lobby and reception area.*