

Interior acoustics credits in green building certification schemes vs. Building regulation

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ABSTRACT

Building certification schemes (WELL, LEED, BREAM, DGNB) are starting to expand their focus area to include both the environmental impact of the construction and operation of the building, as well as the influence it has on the building's occupants. Drawing attention to the indoor environmental quality, and therefore the well-being of the residents means evaluating the buildings impact on all 5 of the human senses. If and to what extend hearing, acoustics, is covered by the various building assessment schemes will be analyzed in the presentation.

Specifically addressed will be the WELL Building Standard, which measures features that support human health and wellness. WELL version1 had significantly stricter interior acoustic requirements than WELL draft version2. Given the impact uncontrolled acoustics have on tenants, it is necessary to have a meaningful look at what the changes between the two versions mean to the buildings inhabitants.

It will also be addressed how the quantitative requirements in the green building certification schemes compare to multiple building regulations in European countries. And a discussion what acousticians can do to strengthen the implementation and use of 'sound' criteria in assessment schemes.

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