



February 2012

Minister Announces New Option in Scottish Building Standards for Sound Insulation in New Homes

An award winning sound insulation scheme for homes was launched in Scotland today by Derek Mackay, Planning Minister. From February 2012 Scottish builders can now use the hugely successful Robust Details method of meeting sound insulation requirements in new homes.

Widely used in other parts of the UK with more than 500,000 new properties within the scheme, Robust Details has seen the sound insulation performance of newly built homes rise to an all-time high since its introduction, with an average performance 7 decibels above the minimum required by regulations.

Robust Details also gives considerable benefits to the builder by providing certainty of completion date, cost of construction, and certainty of performance outcome as its use avoids having to carry out house-by-house pre-completion sound testing in order to comply with the new Building Standards Section 5: Noise, one of the very highest in Europe for domestic sound.

Planning Minister Derek Mackay said:

"I'm delighted to welcome Robust Details Ltd to Scotland. We know their approach is popular because it results in consistently good sound insulation performance of buildings. It increases compliance with building regulations and reduces the number of noise complaints.

Good building standards play an important role in supporting sustainable economic growth. Robust Details will enable projects to go ahead in an efficient and speedy way which provides business with the certainty it needs to make the decision to invest in Scotland.

The Robust Details approach is an excellent example of collaborative working between industry and government to deliver better results for homeowners and house builders in a simple and efficient way."

Following changes recently made to Scottish Building Standards - and in response to the focus on on-site compliance – the Robust Details approach can now be used within the 'Scottish Type Approval Scheme' (STAS). STAS provides developers and designers with standard system design approvals to facilitate faster responses for Building Warrant Approvals. All local authorities in Scotland will now accept homes registered and built using the Robust Details scheme as automatically complying with the requirements of Building Standards, as it has been approved under STAS.

robustdetails

The launch of Robust Details in Scotland has been as a result of the combined efforts of The Scottish Government, the Scottish Association of Building Standards Managers (SABSM), Homes for Scotland (HfS) and Robust Details Ltd (RDL).

“Robust Details is a superb example of a partnership between industry and local authorities. This shared approach will continue to bring future benefits as the feedback given to site operatives through sample site inspection and sound testing will lead to further improvements for Scottish builders and ultimately Scottish home occupiers.” concluded Alan McAulay President of the Scottish Association of Building Standards Managers (SABSM).

ENDS

Editors notes:

The official launch took place on 31st January 2012 at a ceremony held at Murrayfield Stadium between:

- Derek Mackay MSP Minister for Local Government and Planning
- Mike Freshney Chairman of Robust Details Ltd
- Dave Baker Chief Executive of Robust Details Ltd
- Alan McAulay President of the Scottish Association of Building Standards Managers (SABSM)
- Jonathan Fair Chief Executive of Homes for Scotland
- Professor Sean Smith of Edinburgh Napier University

About Robust Details:

Robust Details originated in 2002 following a change in Building Regulations in England and Wales. Working with Professor Sean Smith of Edinburgh Napier University, the Robust Details team produced a pattern book of wall and floor designs and established a system of monitoring (inspection and testing) that would enable builders to regularly achieve better than minimum regulatory standards, and thus consistently produce new homes with excellent built-in sound insulation.

In 2009 Edinburgh Napier University was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for its pivotal work in developing Robust Details.

www.robustdetails.com

For further information and images contact Clare Methven on 07810 432831 or clare@tmcentre.co.uk