

Journées d'automne de la SSA  
18 octobre 2012 EMPA, Dübendorf

# Mesurages des bruit d'utilisation des installations sanitaires dans les constructions en bois

**Victor Desarnaulds**

EcoAcoustique SA, 25 Vinet, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland, [desarnaulds@ecoacoustique.ch](mailto:desarnaulds@ecoacoustique.ch)

**Robert Beffa**

University of Applied Sciences, Hepia, Geneva, Switzerland [robert.beffa@hesge.ch](mailto:robert.beffa@hesge.ch)

**Hervé Lissek**

LEMA, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland, [herve.lissek@epfl.ch](mailto:herve.lissek@epfl.ch)

**Delphine Bard**

Lund University, 22100 Lund, Sweden, [delphine.bard@construction.lth.se](mailto:delphine.bard@construction.lth.se)



Desarnaulds & Beffa., Marteau EMPA dans les construction en bois



# Presentation

- 1) Introduction
- 2) In situ measurements
- 3) Laboratory measurements
- 4) Discussion and conclusion



# 1) Introduction

- ◆ **Service equipment noise** is one of the main sources of complaints in building noise
- ◆ Noise come not only from standard operation but also by **human manipulation of service equipment**
- ◆ Since 1988, the **Swiss Standard SIA181** (Protection against noise in building) introduced a distinction between these two types of noise
- ◆ The **measurement methodology** for manipulation noise wasn't reliable enough.

# Simulation of manipulation noise

Various devices were tested to simulate user noise

## Goals:

- repeatability
- reproducibility
- uncoupling evaluation
- Relation with real noise

- Tapping machine
- Concrete test hammer
- Shaker
- **Pendling hammer**



Validation with laboratory and in situ measurements

# Introduction

- ◆ Need of more information about **reproducibility and application conditions** of the new methodology
- ◆ **SIA181 requirements are often exceeded** (K4 factor to be validated)
- ◆ Methodology was developed and tested only in **massive constructions** (most frequent in Switzerland).  
**Relevance** of this measurement method **for lightweight construction** in which decoupling performances and low frequency are particularly important

## 2) In situ measurements

# Wooden multi-storey building



# Measurements in wood constructions

About **3000 hammer measurements** in several configurations and installations in bath rooms (bathtubs, showers, sinks, toilets, shelves) and kitchens (worktops, sinks, cabinets).

- the maximum level  $L_{A,F}$  for each hammer impact (min. 12 /SIA181).
- temporal data, spectra and audio recordings
- wideband (1/3 octave from 50 to 5000 Hz) airborne and impact noise insulation.

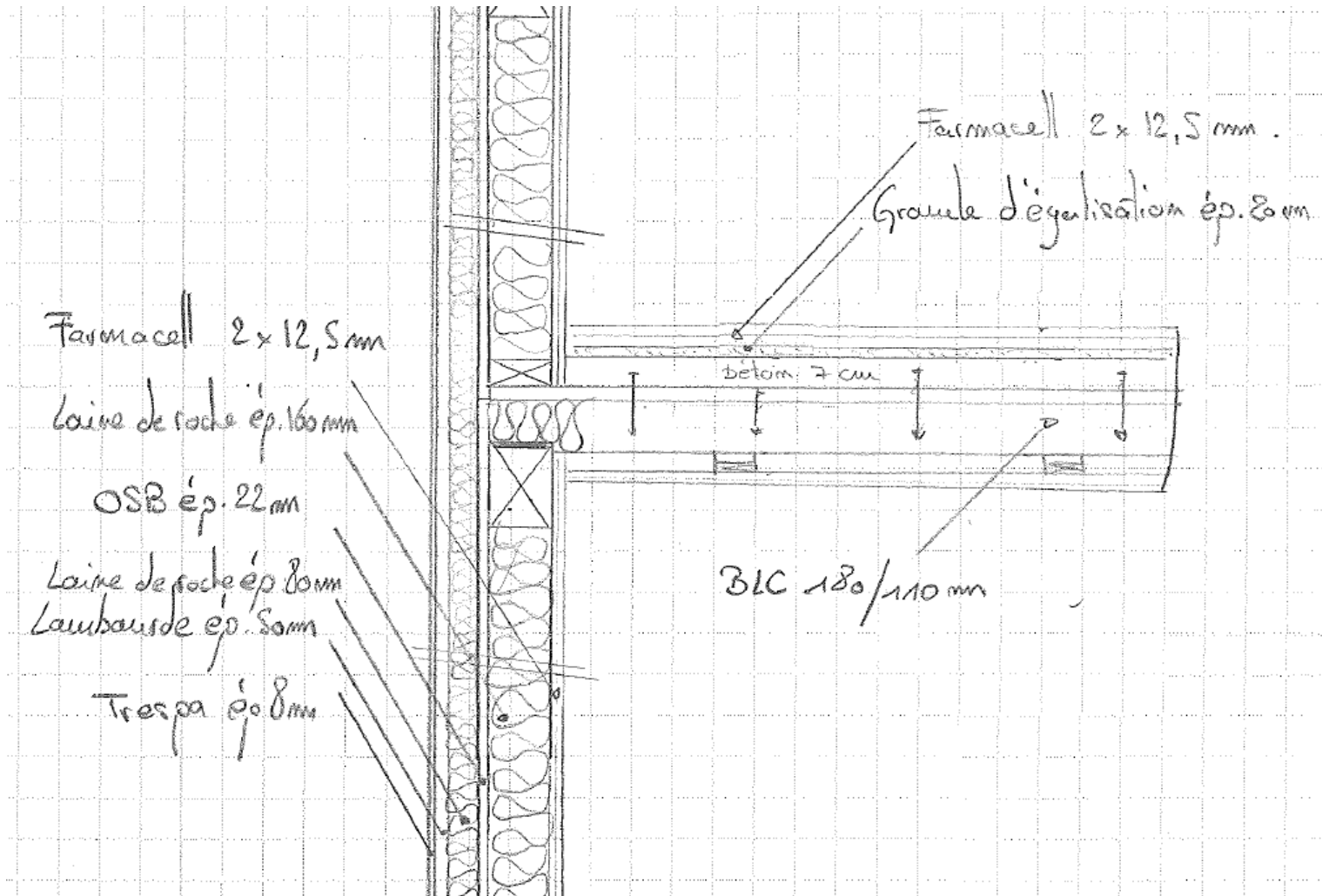
**Five typical swiss wooden** constructions types :

- **E1** standard housing (minimal requirements 2006)
- **E2** student housing (minimal requirements 1988)
- **E3** quality housing (increased requirements 2006)
- **E4** quality housing (increased requirements 2006)
- **E5** quality housing (increased requirements 2006)





# Elevation of two storeys Wood-concrete construction (E5)





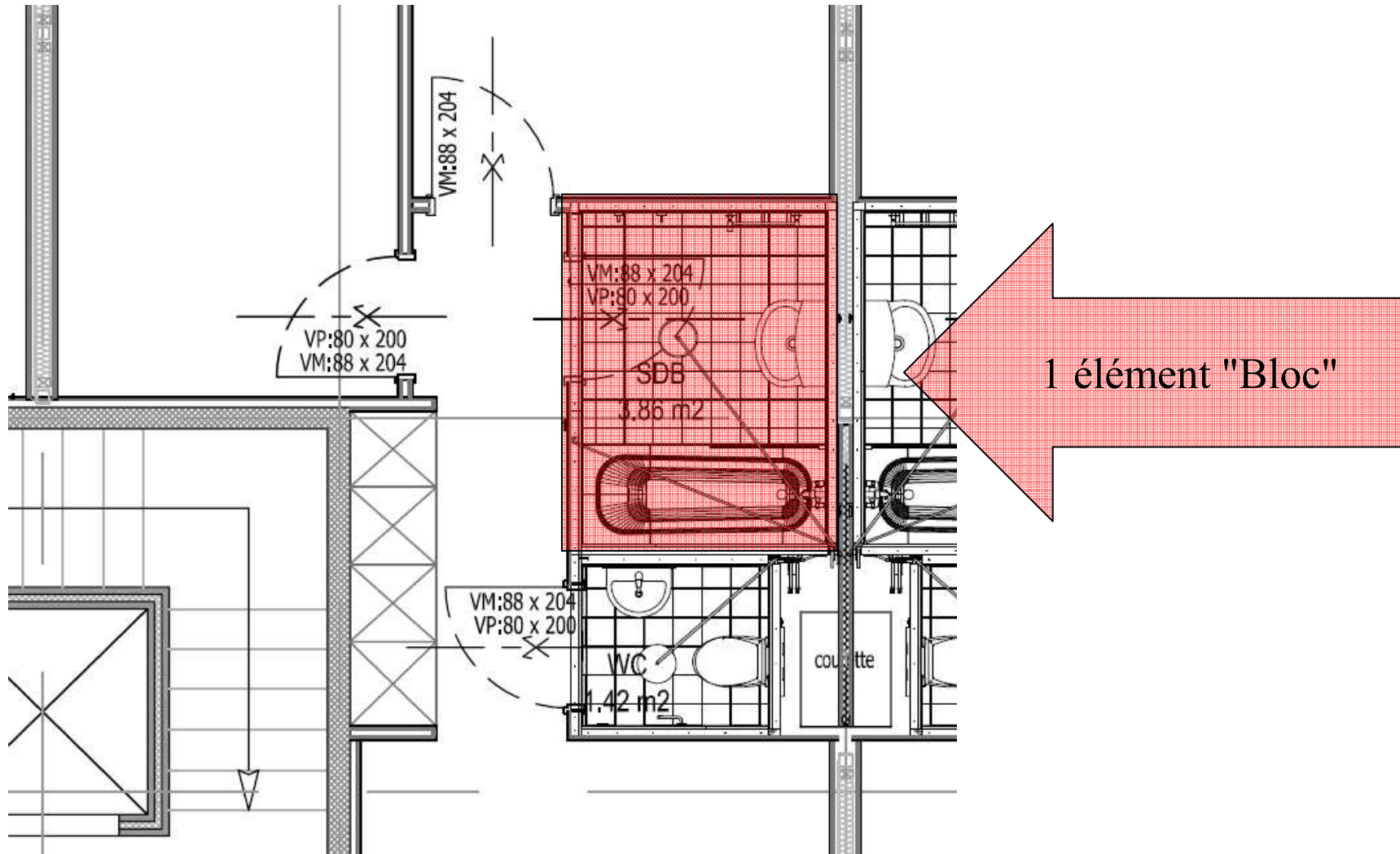
# Elevation of two storeys Prefabricated bathroom



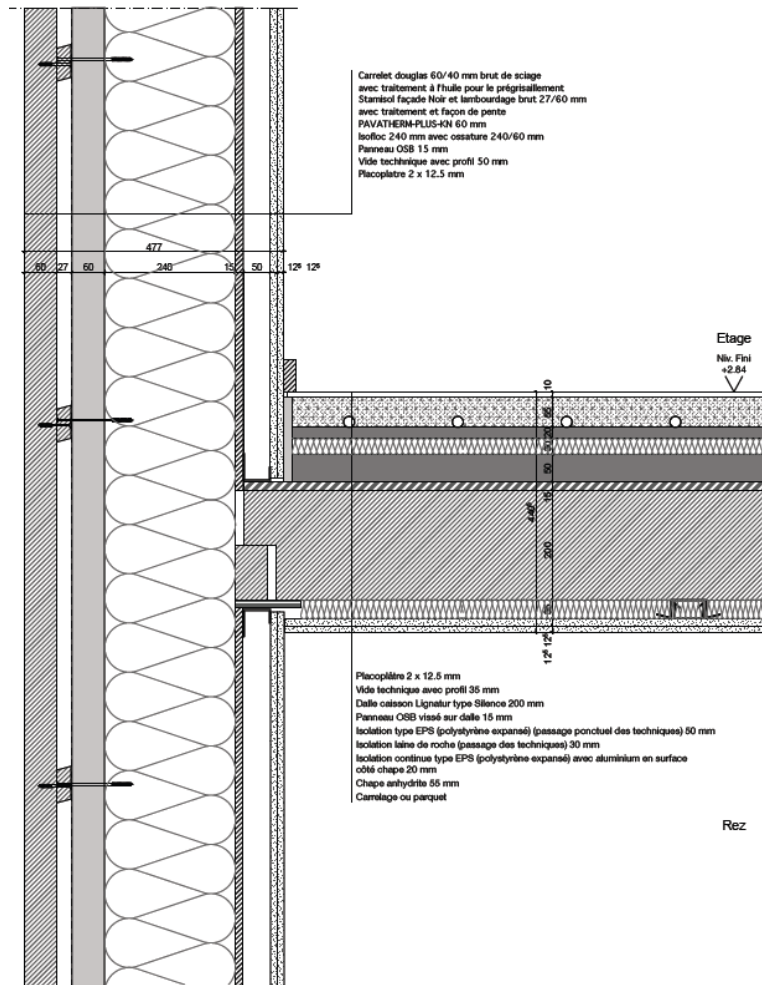
Desarnaulds & Beffa., Marteau EMPA dans les construction en bois



# Elevation of two storeys Prefabricated bathroom



# Quality wood constructions



**E3** quality housing  
(increased requirements 2006)

Floor: flooring, 5.5 cm anhydrite floor, 2 cm EPS insulation, 3 cm rock wool insulation, 5 cm EPS insulation, 1.5 cm OSB panel, 20 cm wood slab Lignatur Silence, 3 cm plenum, 2x1.25 cm suspended ceiling.

Common walls: 1.25+1.5 cm Fermacell (heavy plasterboard), 2x10 cm frame with Isofloc (cellulose insulation), 1.25+1.5 cm Fermacell

# Results

## Type of construction

Minimal Requirements	# Measurements (% exceeding requirement)				# Measurements (% exceeding requirement)	
	>52 dB	<53 dB	<38 dBA	<38 dBA	<38 dBA	<38 dBA
Construction	Airborn	Impact	Manipulation in Kitchen		Manipulation in bathroom	
E1	54 ± 1	53 ± 0	44 ± 4	10 (100%)	39 ± 5	16 (62.5%)
E2	50 ± 2	58 ± 4	38 ± 2	4 (50%)	47 ± 4	6 (100%)
E3	55 ± 11	46 ± 7	28 ± 6	2 (0%)	35 ± 5	12 (25%)
E4	60 ± 2	50 ± 0	40 ± 2	8 (75%)	39 ± 7	8 (75%)
E5	64 ± 0	51 ± 12	37 ± 1	4 (0%)	26 ± 1	2 (0%)
<b>Total</b>				<b>28 (64%)</b>		<b>44 (52%)</b>

- For 20% equipment, the average is at least 5 dB higher than the requirements
- Favorable typology leads to the best results (E3 and E5)



# Measurements in wood constructions

## 1) Bruits de courte durée - bruits provoqués par l'utilisateur (marteau)

Local d'émission :	Local de réception:						L <sub>max</sub> - moyen	K4	Niveau L <sub>H,tot</sub> en dB(A)	Dépassement	Ecart type
	Salle de bain, Appartement 12, (1er étage)										
	K1= 0		V= 50		Cv= 0						
	L <sub>max</sub> - Position 1			L <sub>max</sub> - Position 2							
Lavabo	57	56.4	56.9	58.3	57.6	57.7	58	-12	46	3	1.6
	56.5	56.7	57.7	57.5	61.2	57.7					
	58.9	59.2	58.9	57.4	61.1	57.8					
	56	55.9	55.8	60.1	60.7	57.6					
	58.5	56.1	55.8	61.2	57.8	57.9					
Baignoire	65.5	58.4	51.6	64.3	57.3	52.5	59	-12	47	4	4.8
	65.6	58.9	51.8	64.2	57.3	52.7					
	66.3	59.1	51.7	65.2	57.8	52.4					
	66.5	59	51.6	65	57.5	52.5					
	67	58.9	54.4	65.6	57.5	52.4					
	65.1	58.6	54.6	62.3	59.1	54					
	65.2	59.4	54.5	62.4	59.7	53.8					
	65	59.7	54.3	61.1	59.8	54.1					
	65.1	59.7	54.3	61.9	60.2	53.6					
	64.4	59.7	54.3	61.7	60	54.1					
WC	61.2	61.2	61.2	61	61.1	61	61	-7	54	11	0.1
	61.1	61.1		61	61.1						

Quality wood construction E3 bathroom to bathroom with airborne transmission

**Insufficient airborne sound insulation** ( $D_{nT,w}=40$  dB in E3 due to common ventilation duct) induces significant increase of the manipulation noise of service equipment.





# Results- Measurement techniques

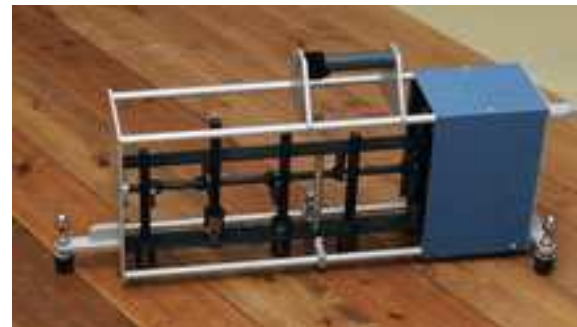
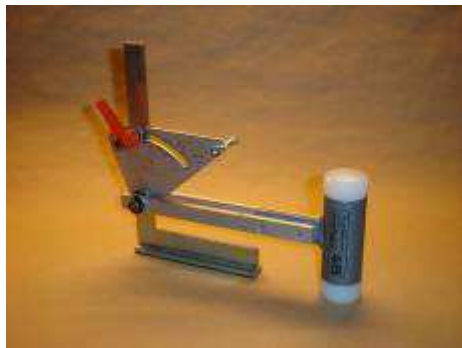
## 1. La répétabilité des mesurages (d'une même installation)

Ecart type $\sigma$	min	max	moyenne	écart type
baaignoire	2.6	6.7	4.4	1.3
lavabo	0.2	1.6	1.2	0.6
WC	0.1	1.3	0.6	0.5

**Repeatability** (12 measurements of a same installation) is good for toilets and sinks, ( $\sigma = 0.6$  and  $1.2$  dB) but significant disparity for bathtub values ( $\sigma = 4.4$  dB), difference between the hammer impact on the edge (rigid or semi-rigid contacts) and the bottom of the bathtub.

# Results- Measurement techniques

**With different methodologies**, the requirements are on average 5 dB more severe with the pendulous hammer according to standard tapping machine for the same floating screed floor and a walk-in shower.





# Attenuation and reproducibility

- ◆ **Attenuation performances** of a buffer floor (indirect-direct transmission  $13.6 \pm 3.9$  dB for E1 and E2) or according to direction (ascending-descending from 1 to 20 dB) **depends on the type of connection between** the wall supporting service equipment and the floor/ceiling.
- ◆ **Reproducibility** is weak ( $\sigma = 4.3 \pm 2.1$  dB for similar measurements in various apartments on thirteen setups) and correlated only slightly with the type of installation or construction. Implementation and fixation conditions are **highly sensitive to workmanship errors**.

## 2) Laboratory measurements

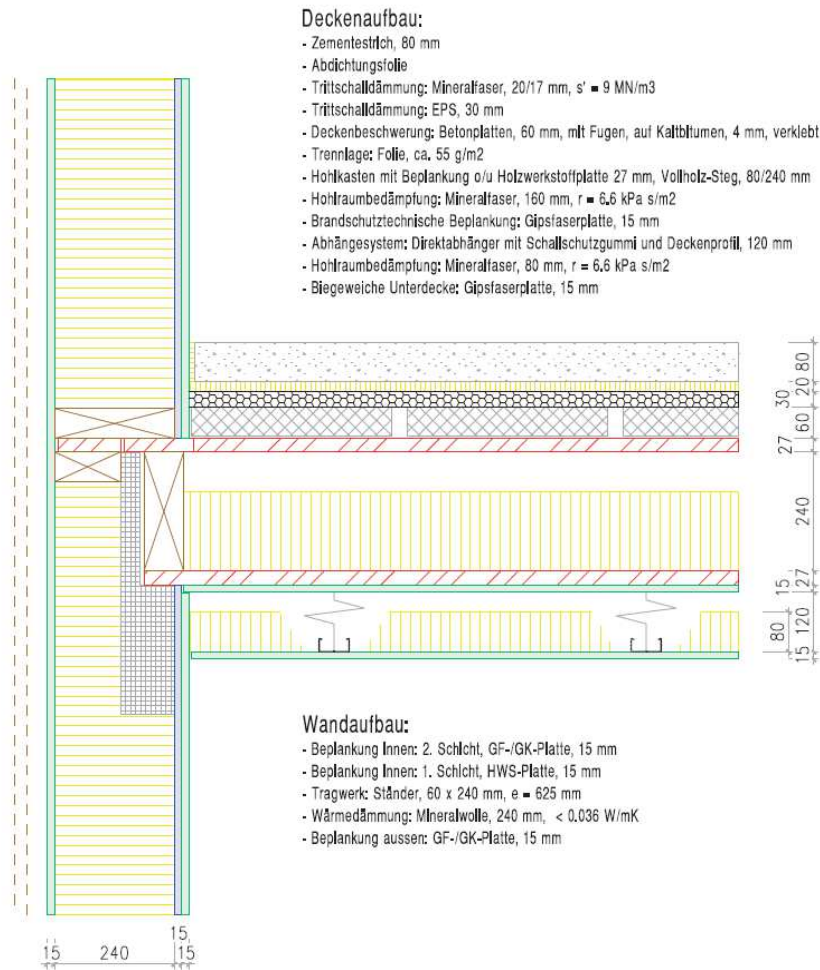
# EMPA-BFH lightweight laboratory



Desarnaulds & Beffa., Marteau EMPA dans les construction en bois



# Laboratory constructions



**Cf. E3 quality housing**  
(increased requirements 2006)

**Floor:** 8 cm concrete, 2 cm glass wool insulation, 3 cm EPS insulation, 6 cm concrete tiles, 2.7 cm OSB panel, 24 cm timber floor, 2.7 cm OSB panel, 12 cm plenum with 8 cm mineral wool, 1.5 cm suspended ceiling.

**Wall:** 2x1.5 cm plasterboard, 6x24 cm frame with mineral wool, 1.5 cm plasterboard

# Laboratory measurements

About **1000 hammer measurements** maximum level  $L_{A,F}$  for each hammer impact. Wideband spectra (1/3 octave from 50 to 5000 Hz) for EMPA hammer impact noise, airborne and impact noise insulation.

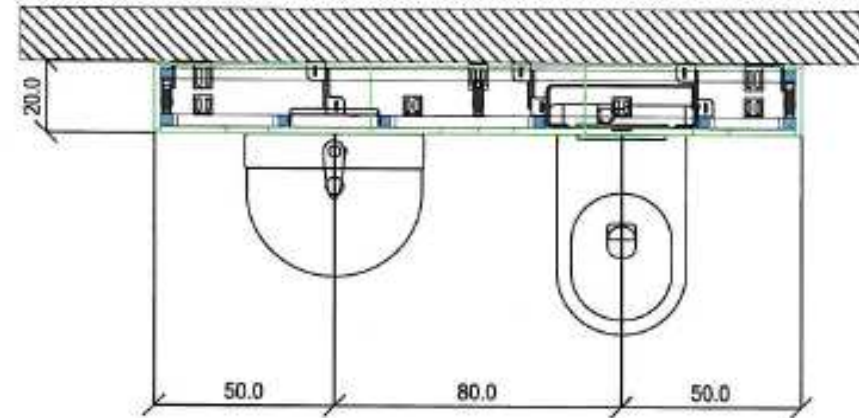
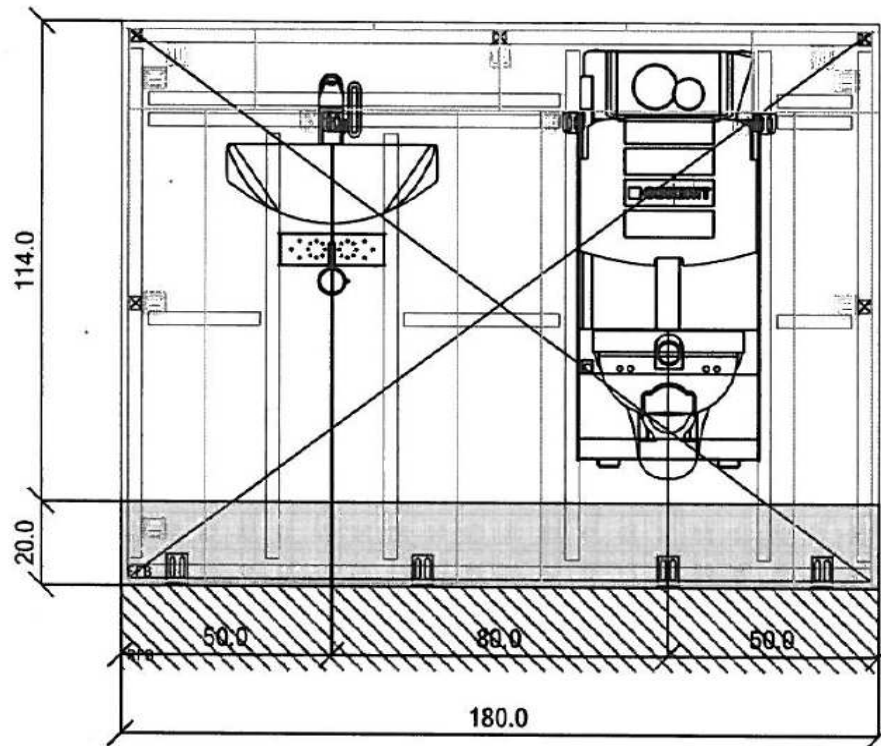


**Two typical sanitary constructions types :**

- Prefabricated isolated installation + 18 mm plasterboard
- Standard installation directly + 2x12 mm plasterboard.

# Laboratory measurements

## Prefabricated system





# Laboratory measurements

## Prefabricated system



# Parameters studied

## Prefabricated system

The main sound transmission path should be :

- contact in floor (sanitary frame, plaster frame)
- contact in wall (rigid fixation of sanitary frame, flow tube collar, shelf)
- airborne noise

The parameters studied :

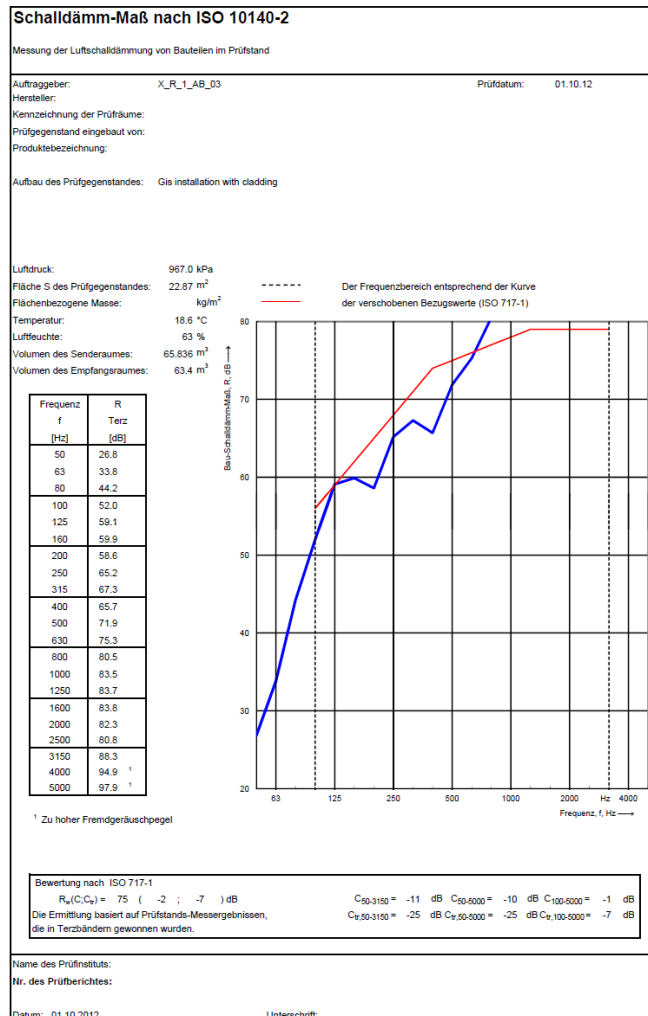
- Presence of acoustic set (WC, sink)
- Opening in plasterboard
- Rigid contact between fixation and floor (1 to 4 wedge(s))
- Rigid contact between fixation and wall (1 to 4 wedge(s))
- Rigid contact between shelf and wall (L shape profile)
- Less contact between fixation and floor/wall (4-13 soft washers)





# Laboratory constructions

## Airborne sound insulation



**Airborne sound insulation**  
 With gypsum board closed :  
 $R'_w (C, C_{tr}) = 75 (-2, -7)$

With gypsum board open  
 $R'_w (C, C_{tr}) = 73 (-2, -7)$

**Maximum level of hammer:  $L_{A,F}$**

Emission room: 87 -95 dB(A)

Into the sanitary box: 97 -105 dB(A)

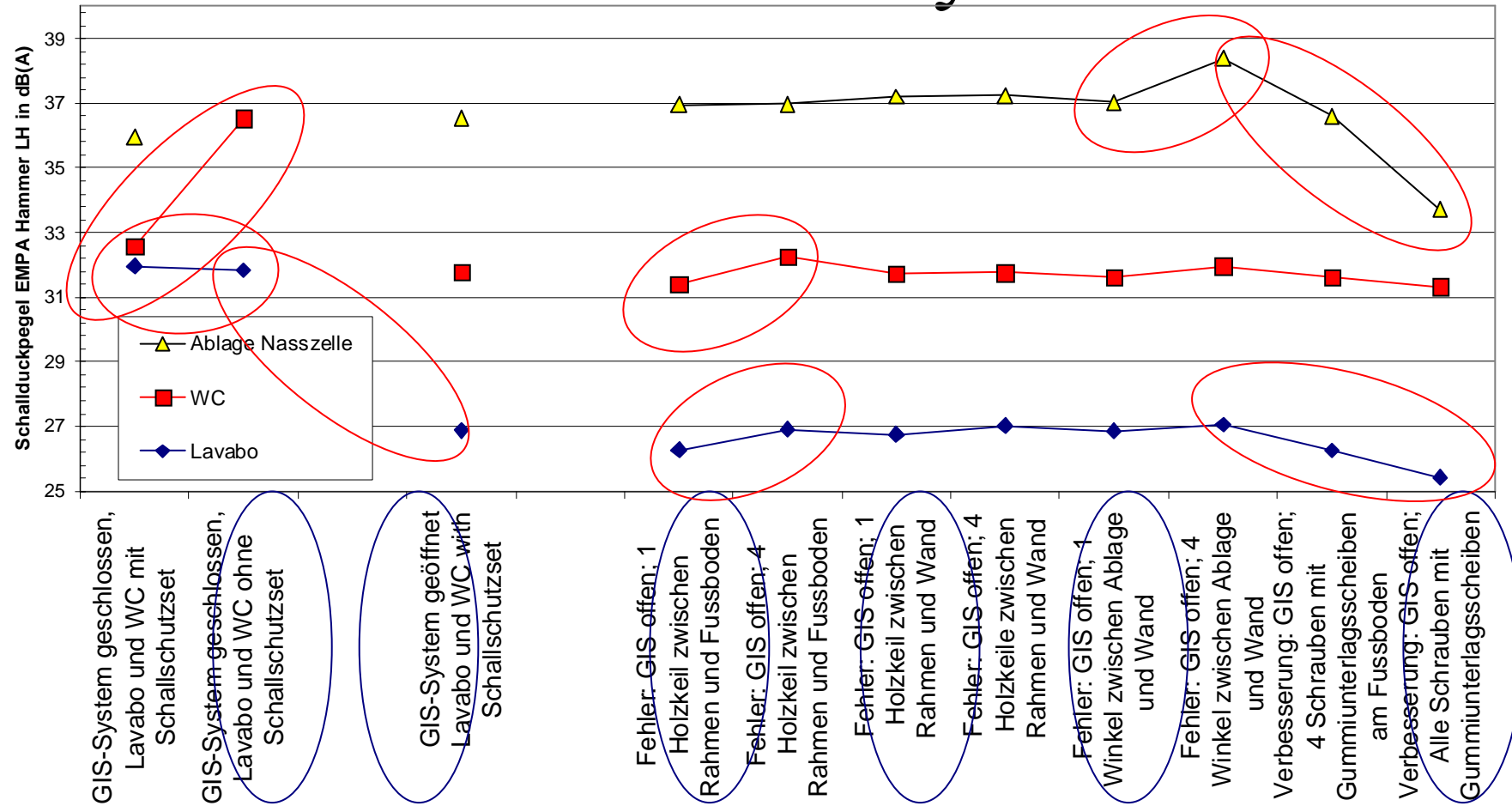
Reception room : 40 -51 dB(A)

Backgroud noise :  $L_{Aeq} = 23 \text{ dB(A)}$



# Results

## Prefabricated system



# Main Results

## Prefabricated system

- **Quality wood construction, minimal requirements satisfied for all results**
- Airborne path is not determinant
- Presence of acoustic set : -4 dB WC, 0 -4 dB sink (according to workmanship)
- Rigid contact between fixation and floor (1 wedge) + 1dB(A)
- No effect of Opening in plasterboard, rigid contact between fixation wall (1 to 4 wedge(s))
- Rigid contact between shelf and wall + 2 dB for shelf
- Less contact between fixation and floor/wall (4-13 soft washers) : -3 dB for shelf, -2 dB lavabo.

# Laboratory measurements

## Standard system



# Parameters studied

## Standard system

The parameters studied :

- Presence of acoustic set (WC, sink)
- Opening in plasterboard
- Suppression of the contact between fixation and wall
- Resilient layer between fixation and wall
- Resilient layer between fixation and wall + feet
- Resilient layer between fixation and wall + screws unfixed
- No resilient layer between fixation and wall + screws fixed
- Rigid contact between shelf and wall (L shape profiles).



# Parameters studied

## Standard system

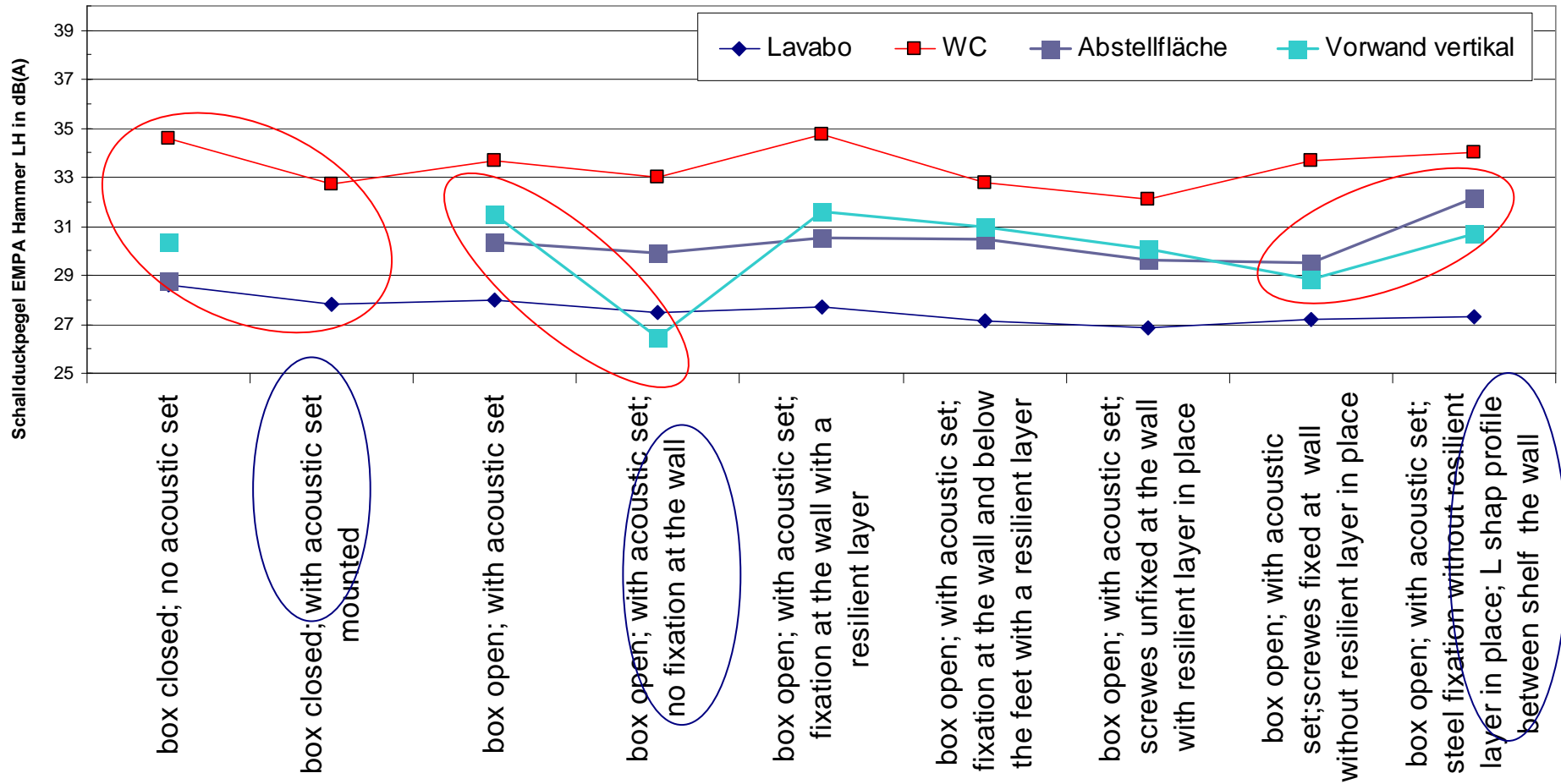


Desarnaulds & Beffa., Marteau EMPA dans les construction en bois



# Results

## Standard system





# Results summary

## Standard system

- **With quality wood construction, minimal requirements satisfied for all results**
- Presence of acoustic set -2 dB WC, -1 dB sink
- Openings in plasterboard + 1 dB
- Suppression of the contact between fixation and wall – 6 dB vertical gypsum, -1 dB WC and sink
- Resilient layer between fixation and wall = rigid connection
- Resilient layer between fixation, wall and feet, -1 dB
- No additional effect of screws unfixed
- Rigid contact between shelf and wall (L profiles) +2 dB shelf



## 4) Conclusion

### Sanitary systems / labo-in situ

Type	WC	Sink	Shelf
Prefabricated (labo)	32	27	37
Standard (labo)	34	27	30
Standard (in situ E3)	38	30	

- In situ higher (+4 dB(A) than in laboratory (construction + workmanship)
- WC induce highest levels for standard constructions

# Conclusion in situ

- ◆ **Swiss minimal requirements are often exceeded** (52% in bathrooms and 64% in kitchens) in wooden structure
- ◆ **Improvement of the measurement technique** (definition of the hammer position, airborne contribution) **and evaluation** (consistency with the impact noise requirements)
- ◆ the measurement technique highlights the **qualities of junctions** and **workmanship errors** (poor reproducibility).
- ◆ **limited efficiency of the fastening uncoupling systems** for lightweight constructions (need for double frame construction)

# Conclusion labo

- ◆ With **quality wood construction**, SIA181 minimal requirements are satisfied for all results
- ◆ Presence of acoustic set: 0 to -4 dB
- ◆ Less contact between fixation and floor/wall (4-13 soft washers): -2 to -3 dB for prefabricated systems.
- ◆ Rigid contact between shelf and wall (L profiles): +2 dB
- ◆ Little effect (<2 dB) of oopenings in plasterboard, additional rigid contact between fixation and wall, resilient layer between fixation, wall and feet, screws unfixe
- ◆ More effect in average wood construction (without suspended ceiling)?

# Discussion

- ◆ **Comparison of massive/lightweight constructions:**
  - database for both types of construction
  - study of specific facilities (bath and shower tubs)
  - frequency and time analysis
  
- ◆ **SIA181 standard clarifications** regarding:
  - the number+position of measurements for bath and showertubs
  - Airborne insulation should fulfill minimum requirements
  - harmonization with impact noise requirements (K4 coefficient)

# Acknowledgment

- ◆ **Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER),**  
project C09.0163
- ◆ **BFH Bienne, Prof. C. Geyer, B. Schuppisser, A. Sanavi,**
- ◆ **EMPA Dübendorf, R. Bütikofer**
- ◆ **Geberit SA, P. Schnyder, A. Waeger, O. Lazzarotto**



Thank you for your attention  
Any question?



**SANITAS  
TROESCH**



Desarnaulds & Beffa., Marteau EMPA dans les construction en bois

