

Understanding the "STC" Rating

Use the following charts & comparisons to get a rough idea of what various STC levels mean in terms of "privacy afforded" & construction materials, typically used in buildings.

STC RATING	PRIVACY AFFORDED	STC RATING	CONSTRUCTION
25	Normal Speech Easily Understood	18	Hollow Metal Door Without Seals
30	Normal Speech Audible, but Unintelligible	22	Solid Wood Door Without Seals
35	Loud Speech Understood, but Unintelligible	26	1/4" Plate Glass
40	Loud Speech Audible, but Unintelligible	32	1/2" Plate Glass
45	Loud Speech Barely Audible * (Max STC on Accordions)	38	1/2" Drywall on Wood Studs, Both Sides
50	Shouting Barely Audible	41	4" Painted Concrete Block Wall
55	Shouting Not Audible	42	5/8" Drywall on Steel Studs, Both Sides
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC</p> <p>SOUND TRANSMISSION CLASSIFICATION</p> <p>STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC/STC</p> <p>* Regarding these specific ratings, the STC value is a "certified" rating.</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding-left: 20px;"> <p>46</p> <p>8" Hollow Concrete Block</p> <p>48</p> <p>8" Painted Concrete Block Wall</p> <p>50</p> <p>Double 5/8" Drywall on Steel Studs</p> <p>53</p> <p>12" Solid Concrete Wall, * (Max STC on Operables)</p> </div> </div>			

Source:
 U.S. Department of Commerce / National Bureau of Standards Handbook 119, July 1976 / "Quiet Living: A Practical Guide to Noise Control" (Page 61).