Sector
Legal

Case study

Carey Olsen

Guernsey

Primary objectives
- Speech privacy
- Comfort

Product used
- LogiSon sound masking

Scope of work
- Meeting room

Carey Olsen needed to ensure speech privacy in and between meeting rooms and open space.

Carey Olsen employs over 300 staff, including 130 lawyers, in its offices in Guernsey, Jersey and London. The firm's client base includes governments, financial institutions, regulatory bodies, global and national corporations, professional firms and individuals.

In Spring 2009, Carey Olsen's Guernsey office moved into a newly refurbished three-storey building in St Peter Port, the Island's town centre. The ground floor comprised a reception area, client meeting rooms and a collection of open and closed offices. Acoustic Comfort was contacted in order to ensure speech privacy in and between meeting rooms and open office space.

Acoustic Comfort installed a layer of 40mm Rockwool above the metal perforated ceiling together with the LogiSon Sound Masking System. To ensure an effective solution, a trial was conducted in three of the second floor boardrooms, where each is divided by folding walls.

After the success of the trial, Acoustic Comfort were commissioned to provide the solution in all cellular offices and meeting rooms and was subsequently extended to all areas including the open plan.

The challenge was to install some 2,039m^2 of Rockwool and 181 sound masking speakers without disrupting the day-to-day business at Carey Olsen. The installation team worked nights from 6pm to 6am for two weeks, so the offices were ready for business each morning.

From the client

"I am extremely pleased with the solution provided by Acoustic Comfort; their approach to installation ensured minimum disruption to the daily working environment of the firm and, crucially, has ensured that we continue to maintain excellent standards of client communication."

Russell Clark
Deputy Managing Partner

The solution for Carey Olsen completely solved an issue which is critical to a business model that requires concentration and confidentiality in its communication. This was delivered quickly and with no disruption to the business.

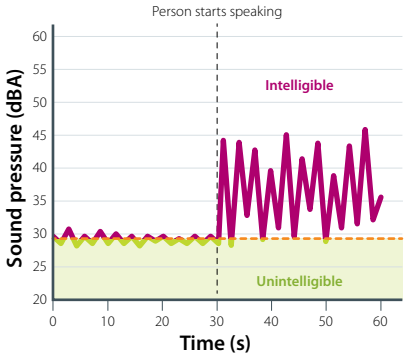
Sound level tests

Illustrative tests

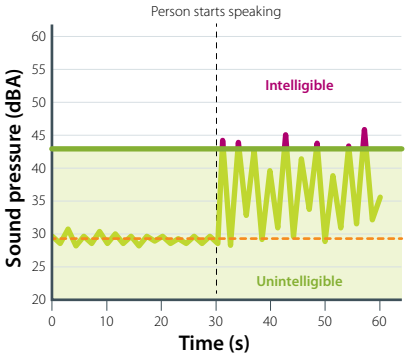
These example test results measure sound leaking from a closed meeting room into an open plan area.

- For both tests, a person was positioned in the conference room with the door closed.
- Sound pressure measurements were taken in the open plan area.
- For the first half of each test, there was no speech.
- For the second half, the person in the conference room spoke with a 'presentation' voice.

Before treatment



After treatment



Key:

- Intelligible sound
- Unintelligible sound
- Noise floor
- Masking level

How sound masking works between different spaces

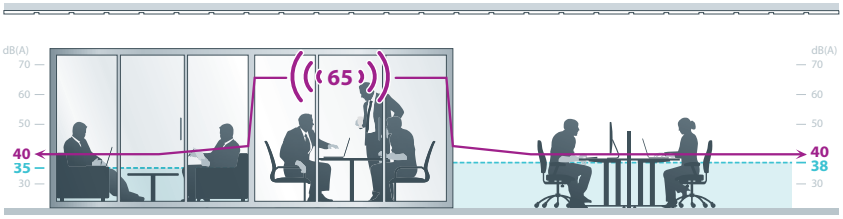
The problem

Low background noise level

Noise coming from office B is distracting people working in adjoining spaces A and C.

Background noise is measured at 35dB(A) in office A and at 38dB(A) in open space C. Measured sound levels in office B are recorded at 65dB(A) and can be heard in adjoining office A and open space C at 40dB(A).

Without sound masking



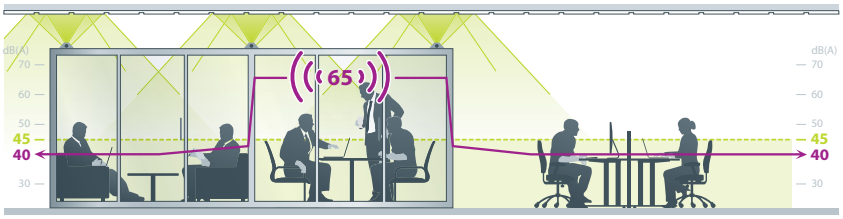
The solution

Raise the background noise level

To prevent conversations from being overheard the background noise level in A and C must be higher than the disruptive noise coming from office B.

Adding sound masking raises the background noise level in A and C to 45dB(A) which is just high enough to make conversations from B difficult to hear and therefore less distracting.

With sound masking



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