

SOUND PRIVACY



MEETING PODS



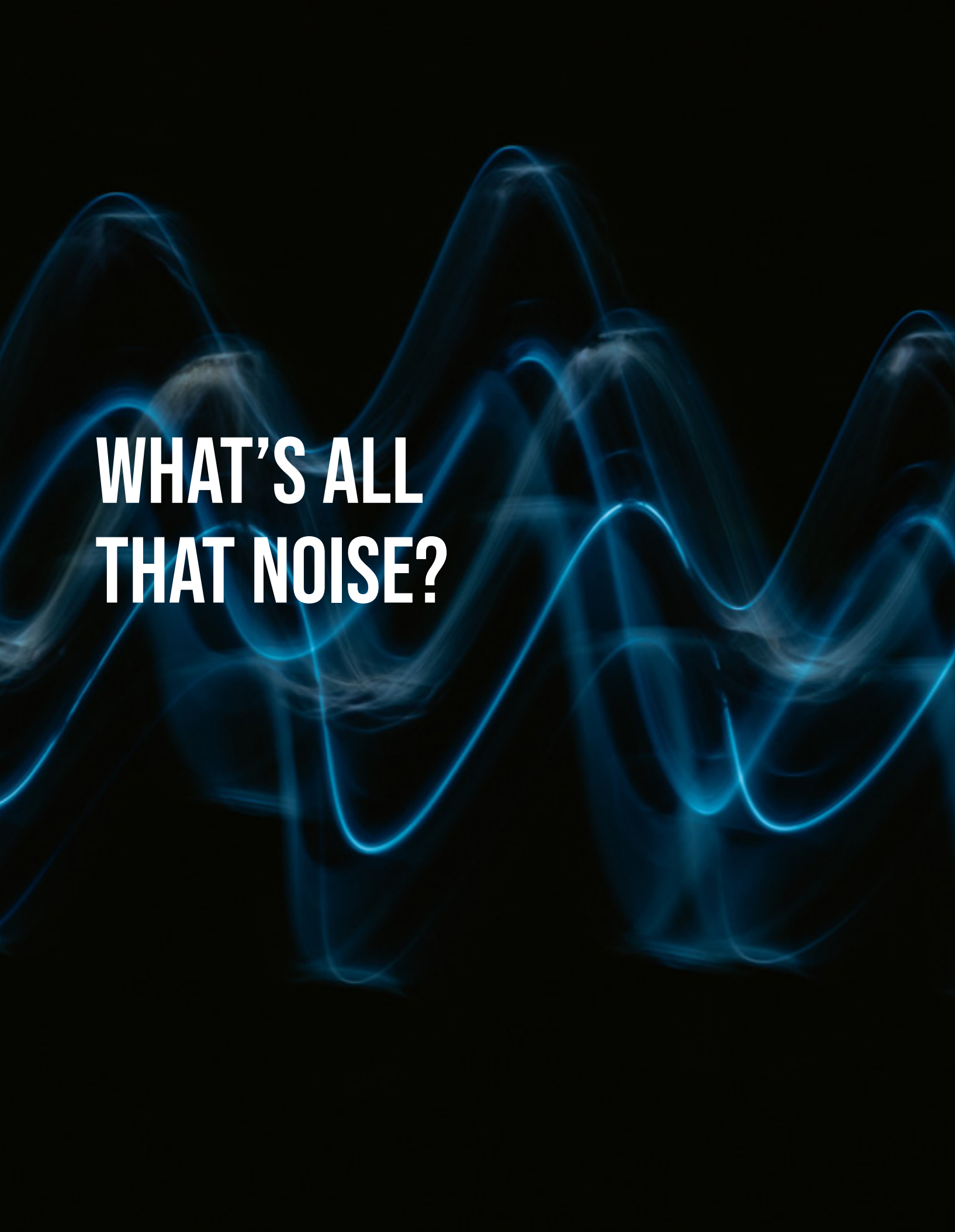


CREATING COMFORTABLE AND PRODUCTIVE WORKSPACE

Meeting pods have quickly become the go-to solution for creating private spaces in open plan workplace. However, when it comes to specifications, the focus is often on sound insulation and decibel ratings to ensure maximum privacy and effectiveness.

With numerous sound insulation and dB rating claims on the market, it can be challenging to understand what it all means, who to trust, and which solution is best.

We believe in transparent conversation when it comes to noise privacy of our AR Pods. We aim to educate our clients, highlight different specification options available and ultimately help them make informed decisions that will benefit their team's productivity and wellbeing.



WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE?

WHAT IS DB RATING?

dB rating, or decibel rating, is a unit used to measure sound intensity or loudness.

The db rating of a meeting pod measures the sound insulation or sound reduction performance of the pod. This rating is usually expressed in decibels (dB) and refers to the difference in sound level between the inside and outside of the pod.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE SOUND?

To understand how sound travels from a meeting pod to the outside, it is important to know that sound is created by vibrations that travel through the air as sound waves. These waves continue to spread until they encounter a material that absorbs, reflects or refracts the waves.

To measure the db rating, an acoustic engineer would conduct a sound insulation test using a calibrated sound source inside the pod and a sound level meter placed outside the pod. The difference in sound level would then be measured in decibels, providing the db rating of the pod.

HOW CAN YOU EFFECTIVELY MANAGE SOUND PRIVACY IN A CLOSED SPACE?

In the case of a meeting pod, the sound waves created by people talking inside the pod bounce off the walls, ceiling, and floor of the pod, creating echoes and reverberations that can be heard from the outside. The amount of sound that travels through the walls of the pod is determined by the thickness of the material and the material's ability to absorb sound.

In addition, the type of sound insulation used in the walls and ceiling of the meeting pod can also impact the level of sound transmission. It very much depends on meeting pods specifications and individual components such as thickness of the glass

panels, type of solid panels, acoustic ceiling tiles and various type of door, this will all affect the amount of sound that can travel through the walls, helping to contain the sound within the pod and minimising disruption to others outside.

CAN DB RATING VARY DEPENDING ON COMPONENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS?

Different parts of the pod can have different dB ratings, depending on the materials used and their acoustic properties. For example, the walls and doors of a pod are typically the most important components in terms of sound insulation, and can achieve higher dB ratings than the ceiling or the floor.

Achieving a comfortable sound privacy can depend on various factors, such as the location of the pod, the type of flooring, the ambient noise levels in the surrounding area, and the types of activities taking place inside the pod.

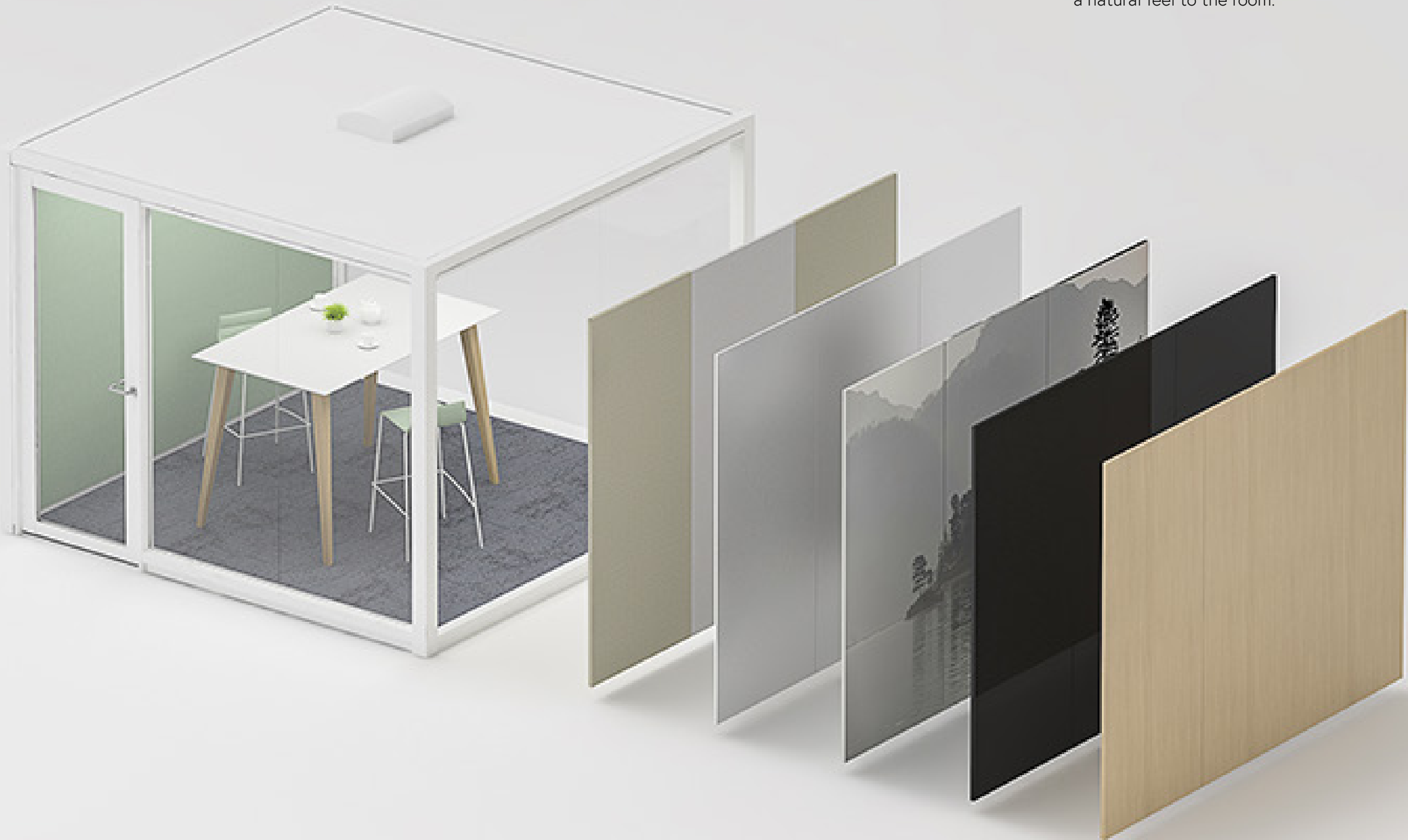
Typically, a standard 10mm glass can achieve up to 35dB in most environments when 10.8 laminated acoustic glass can achieve up to 38dB.

CAN YOU IMPROVE DB RATING?

Improved dB ratings within a closed meeting pod can be achieved by incorporating effective soundproofing materials such as acoustic ceiling tiles, 10.8 laminated acoustic glass panels and a well-designed acoustic seal around the door can significantly reduce sound transmission. Also, introducing sound-masking devices which emit what's known as "white noise can additionally muffle the human voice.

At the end of the day it's important to keep in mind that meeting pods are designed as private spaces, but not soundproof ones and striking the right balance of sound insulation, whilst still providing a space that feels natural is the key here, ensuring the wellbeing of the individuals using the space.

DESIGN THAT BALANCES INSULATION WITH A NATURAL FEEL



MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS

The thing to remember is that dB ratings within office meeting pods are variable and dependent on product size, design specifications and office settings.

One person AR Booth will have different dB rating than a large AR Meeting Pod with an opening roof.

A dB rating between 30-38 is appropriate to ensure that sound does not penetrate outside the pod, and this rating can be achieved through careful design that balances insulation and sound absorption with a natural feel to the room.

TRANSPARENT CONVERSATION

We encourage our customers to remain realistic with their expectations of noise reduction and don't get fixed on a number, each individual AR Pod's dB rating will always depends on the final specifications.

Our AR Meeting Pods achieve up to 35 dB rating which can be improve where needed but we often find it is the right level of privacy, while retaining a natural feel to the room. For example, telephone conversations, meetings, discussions, and even the occasional raised voice, will all remain suitably private within the AR Meeting Room to the outside office.

SOUND INSULATION PERFORMANCE

We are known for our bespoke approach, taking into account client expectations, setting and specifications. We will always ensure each AR Meeting Pod is tailored to client's exact specification, which results in ideal noise reduction and sound isolation.

The table below shows various sound absorption/reduction values for typical panel options used within our AR Meeting Pods.

10mm toughened glass	35 Rw(dB)
10.8 laminated acoustic glass	38 Rw(dB)
6mm double glazed toughened glass	33 Rw(dB)
Fabric Panel (with Barrer)	40 Rw(dB)
MFC Panel (with barrier)	35 Rw(dB)



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