



HQE

What ISINAC brings to a building in HQE certification.

Acoustics is the largest section of the référentiel: 53 of its 186 requirements.



ISINAC ACOUSTIC WORLD - VIGO - 2026

The scheme, in one page

HQE is the French sustainable building certification, today also international. It certifies **the building**, and the developer applies for it with a certification body. A manufacturer does not “hold HQE”: **it supplies the documents with which the building earns its points.**

How it is structured

Three commitments and twenty sections. Every requirement carries its level, and only the two- and three-point ones count towards the higher star ratings.

Commitment	Sections	What each star level requires
Qualité de vie Safety, air, water, resilience, spaces, hygrothermal comfort, acoustic quality , visual comfort, services, connected building	10	★ all PR · ★★ all HQE · ★★★ 20 points · ★★★★★ 50 points
Respect de l'environnement Energy, water, land, material resources, waste, climate change , biodiversity, low-nuisance site works	8	★ all PR · ★★ all HQE · ★★★ 16 points · ★★★★★ 40 points
Performance économique Maintenance and upkeep, responsible consumption and production	2	★ all PR · ★★ all HQE · ★★★ 4 points · ★★★★★ 10 points

The four requirement levels

PR — prerequisite, mandatory.

HQE — 1 point, mandatory from two stars up.

HQE 2 pts and HQE 3 pts — the ones that count towards the third and fourth star.

The overall level of the building

Sum of the stars of the three commitments, out of 12:

Performant 3 · **High-performance** 6 · **Excellent** 7 to 9 ·

Exceptional 10 to 12.

Where an acoustic panel comes in

The **Acoustic quality** section is by far the largest in the référentiel: **55 requirements of 186** and 25 of its 94 pages.

But most of them are heavy construction —slab mass, insulation between dwellings, equipment noise—. **Two requirements deal with sound absorption in common areas, and there the compliance item is a product like ours.** They are the ones on page 4.

Source of this sheet: *HQE Residential Certification Scheme — Technical requirements guide for built and renovated residential buildings performance*, version 01, February 2023, CERQUAL Qualitel Certification, 94 pages. The codes, thresholds and levels quoted are those of that scheme. For non-residential buildings the scheme is *HQE Bâtiment Durable* by Certivéa, version 4.0 since October 2022, consulted on its online platform and not published as a PDF: the codes on this sheet are not carried over to it without checking them.

What ISINAC puts on the table

3

commitments of three
all three receive documentation

7

requirements
2 covered · 5 supported

10

points at stake
in new build, from the 2- and 3-point ones

And it is worth saying what kind of points these are, because they are not earned the same way.

Paper points — 2 of the 10

The 2 points of QA1.8 are documented by handing over a file and do not depend on how the building is designed. Paper also covers **CC.3**, which is an HQE-level requirement —mandatory from two stars up— and not one of the 2- and 3-point ones. ISINAC sends both the same day they are requested.

Design points — 8 of the 10

QA.2.1, CC.2 and CC.4 depend on **how much absorbent surface the design puts in and where**, and are checked by measuring the finished building. ISINAC supplies the test data and the calculation; the design decision is the team's.

The figures apply to new build or structural renovation. In **light renovation** the applicable requirement is QA.8.1 instead of QA.2.1, and it gives up to 2 points: they do not add up, they are different scenarios.

The seven requirements at a glance

Requirement	What it asks for	Level	What ISINAC brings
QA.2.1 Qualité de vie	Acoustic treatment of common areas	PR · 2 pts · 3 pts	Covered. The product is the compliance item
QA.8.1 Qualité de vie	Indoor acoustics of common areas in light renovation	PR · HQE · 2 pts	Covered. The product is the compliance item
CC.3 Environnement	Environmental declaration compliant with ISO 21930 or EN 15804	HQE	Covered. EPD verified to EN 15804+A2
QA1.8 Qualité de vie	Formaldehyde and carcinogenic 1A and 1B VOC emissions below threshold	2 pts	Supported. Indoor air certificate of the fabric
CC.2 Environnement	Environmental impact of the building to EN 15978 or ISO 21931	2 pts	Supported. The EPD feeds that calculation
CC.4 Environnement	Choose solutions that reduce greenhouse gases	3 pts	Supported. 9.64 kg CO ₂ eq/m ² verified
E&M.1.1 Économique	Maintenance manual for the building manager	PR	Supported. Cleaning and upkeep instructions

QA.2.1 and QA.8.1 — common areas

Up to 3 points in new build · up to 2 points in light renovation

The référentiel assesses the acoustic treatment of **entrances, lobbies, landings, corridors and stairs**, and accepts two ways of demonstrating it: by **reverberation time** measured to ISO 3382-2, or by **equivalent absorption area** ΣA . These are the thresholds.

Common area	Class C — PR level	Class B — 2 points	Class A — 3 points
Horizontal circulations entrance, hallway, lobby, landing	$T \leq 1.2 \text{ s}$	$T \leq 0.9 \text{ s}$	$T \leq 0.6 \text{ s}$
Vertical circulations stairwells	$T \leq 1.5 \text{ s}$ or $\Sigma A \geq 0.25 \times S_{\text{floor}}$	$T \leq 1.2 \text{ s}$ or $\Sigma A \geq 0.35 \times S_{\text{floor}}$	$T \leq 0.9 \text{ s}$ or $\Sigma A \geq 0.45 \times S_{\text{floor}}$

The référentiel formula is literally the quantity ISINAC tests

$A = S \times \alpha_w$ where α_w is the weighted sound absorption coefficient measured to ISO 11654. Only materials with $\alpha_w \geq 0.20$ count, and ΣA is the sum of the equivalent areas of all the absorbent linings in the corridor. That is: **the point is earned with the material's α_w and with the installed surface**, and nothing else.

How much surface is needed, per m² of corridor floor

Direct rearrangement of the formula above: $S_{\text{panel}} = (\text{required coefficient} \times S_{\text{floor}}) / \alpha_w$. The last two values are the ones the référentiel itself assigns by default to existing linings when their performance is not known.

Material and α_w	Class C	Class B	Class A
$\alpha_w = 1.00$ — WB HIGH PERFORMANCE, HYBRID, 4-layer CURTAIN ILUCS, WB ILUCS 33 mm, C.610.60	0.25 m²	0.35 m²	0.45 m²
$\alpha_w = 0.85$ — 40 mm adhesive panel with ILUCS the product covered by the environmental declaration	0.29 m²	0.41 m²	0.53 m²
$\alpha_w = 0.50$ — suspended ceiling of compact fibre board référentiel default value	0.50 m²	0.70 m²	0.90 m²
$\alpha_w = 0.20$ — thick carpet glued to concrete référentiel default value	1.25 m²	1.75 m²	2.25 m²

Read another way: class A in a stairwell asks for 0.45 m² of $\alpha_w = 1.00$ product per m² of floor: **half** of what a fibre suspended ceiling needs and a fifth of what carpet needs. In light renovation (QA.8.1) the prerequisite is not to reduce the existing ΣA .

Requirements QA.2.1 (pp. 33 to 36) and QA.8.1 (p. 53) of the référentiel cited on page 2. α_w coefficients measured to EN ISO 354 and evaluated to EN ISO 11654 by Tecnalia; reports and dates on page 7.

QAI.1.8 — emissions from materials

2 points · and also one of the criteria of the EU taxonomy profile

What the requirement demands	Threshold	Status
Formaldehyde emitted by the components and materials that may be in contact with the occupants	< 0.06 mg/m ³ of material	Supported. Indoor air certificate SCS-IAQ-11186 covers the ILUCS and IZZER fabrics. The requirement is verified on the material or component, so in a specification it is best to state the scope exactly as it is: the certificate covers the fabric, not the assembled panel
Other volatile organic compounds classified as carcinogens of categories 1A and 1B	< 0.001 mg/m ³ of material	

For testing, the référentiel refers to the conditions of annex XVII of the REACH Regulation and to **CEN/EN 16516** and **ISO 16000-3**, and notes that the laboratory must comply with **ISO/IEC 17025**. It is a product requirement, not a design one: it is settled with paperwork.



Corridor treated with 610 mm squares on a stone wall. Common areas —lobbies, corridors and stairs— are precisely the scope of QA.2.1 and QA.8.1.

It scores nothing in the HQE table, and the project asks for it anyway

ISO 14001 and ISO 14006 Environmental management and ecodesign system, ES163483 and ES163477 , issued by Bureau Veritas and valid until 25/05/2029	CE marking Six signed Declarations of Performance , which is what allows the product to be placed on the European market	OEKO-TEX Standard 100 Absence of harmful substances in the textile, 11-43686
Trevira CS Reaction to fire of the fabric: 250347.1 and 260340.1, in force	Coefficients by band q _p from 125 to 4,000 Hz for each product, so that the project acoustician can calculate with Sabine or Eyring	Reverberation calculation ISINAC sizes the treatment of the room and delivers the calculation before the finishes are closed

CC.2, CC.3 and CC.4 — climate change

Up to 5 points, plus the HQE-level requirement

Requirement	What it asks for, verbatim	Level	What ISINAC delivers
CC.3	"Products have environmental declarations compliant with ISO 21930 or EN 15804 , where available". The audit checks by sampling the data sheets of three products from different technical batches	HQE	EPD no. EPD-IES-0033394:001 , EN 15804+A2 and ISO 14025, verified by an independent third party, published on 06/08/2026 and valid until 05/08/2031 . Public record at envirodec.com
CC.2	In the absence of carbon regulation, the environmental impact of the building is calculated to EN 15978 or ISO 21931	2	The declaration supplies the product data to that calculation by modules A1-A3, A4, A5, B2, C1-C4 and D
CC.4	From the life cycle assessment results of several solutions, the ones that reduce the greenhouse gas indicator are chosen	3	9.64 kg CO₂ eq/m² installed (GWP-GHG, modules A1-A3), a verified figure and therefore comparable with that of another solution
E&M.1.1 Économique	The future manager is given a manual identifying the items that require regular maintenance and the means to carry it out	PR	Cleaning, upkeep and replacement instructions for the panel, to be added to the building manual

A detail that saves an argument

CC.3 expressly accepts **ISO 21930** or **EN 15804**. It does not require the declaration to be lodged in a particular national database, so **the ISINAC declaration is valid as it stands**.

And where ISINAC is not the compliance item

Saying so avoids claiming what someone else has to solve

Of the 55 requirements of the acoustics section, **53 are not ours** and it is worth knowing: they call for surface masses of 350 to 500 kg/m² in walls and slabs, R_w+C ratings of 54 to 64 dB between dwellings, equipment noise levels and impact insulation.

ISINAC acoustic textiles sit at R_w of 8 to 16 dB: they absorb sound inside the room, they do not insulate between rooms. Nor is requirement CNF.4.1 ours, which deals with site noise towards the neighbours and is solved by organising the noisy phases. And in material resources, requirements REM.1 and REM.2 call for recycled or reused content: **the ISINAC environmental declaration states 0.00 % post-consumer recycled material**, so that point is not claimed.

Behind every figure there is a test

An auditor does not accept a catalogue figure. They accept a report with laboratory, standard, date and number. This is what lies behind every number on this sheet.

What is measured	Standard	Laboratory	Accreditation
Sound absorption in a reverberation room	EN ISO 354	Tecnia Donostia, Spain	ENAC , signatory of the ILAC MRA multilateral agreement; internationally recognised
Absorption classification, α_w	EN ISO 11654	Tecnia	same
Airborne sound insulation	EN ISO 10140-2	Tecnia	same
Sound absorption per object	EN ISO 354 and annex E of ISO 20189	Tecnia	same
Environmental Product Declaration	EN 15804+A2 and ISO 14025	The International EPD System	Independent third-party verification, no. EPD-IES-0033394:001

The documentary record

33 absorption reports and 4 insulation reports, all from Tecnia except one from 2011 by Istituto Giordano. The coefficients quoted on this sheet come from there, with report and date:

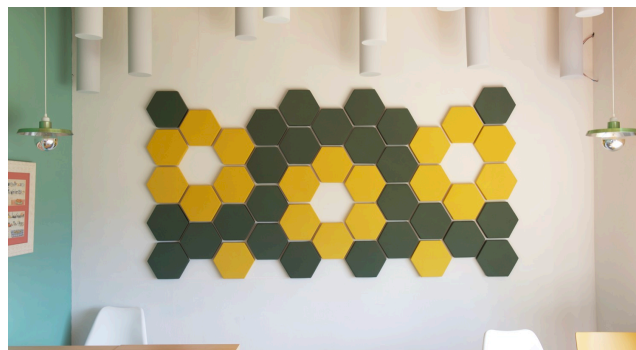
α_w 0.85 (H) · 610×40 panel with ILUCS · **B2018-LACUS-IN-27 II** · 26/07/2018

α_w 1.00 · WB HIGH PERFORMANCE · **110259-7** · 27/05/2024

α_w 1.00 · HYBRID · **B2019-LACUS-IN-83 I** · 26/11/2019

α_w 1.00 · CURTAIN ILUCS 4 layers · **B2019-LACUS-IN-54 V** · 14/05/2019

α_w 1.00 · WB ILUCS 33 mm · **110259-5** · 23/02/2024



Meeting room with 305 mm hexagons on the wall.

What a design team can ask ISINAC for, today

The original test report in PDF for the chosen product · the α_p coefficients by octave band from 125 to 4,000 Hz · the reverberation time calculation for the room or the corridor with the proposed treatment · the full environmental declaration and its public record · the indoor air certificate of the fabric · the CE marking Declarations of Performance · the ISO certificates · the maintenance instructions.



We measure what we sell,
and **we hand over the report.**

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HQE certifies the building, not the product: the points are earned by the project and the one who decides is the certification body. The thresholds and codes quoted are those of the international residential scheme of February 2023; for non-residential buildings the Certivéa référentiel applies. The environmental declaration covers the 40 mm adhesive panel with ILUCS and not the hung, magnet or IZZER fabric versions, nor the foam without fabric.