



biamp.™

SOUND MASKING
AS A CONTRIBUTOR TO LEED
AND WELL CERTIFICATIONS



The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the **International WELL Building Institute (IWBI)** are the leading construction industry organizations that advocate globally for healthy building best practices.

Each organization features its own set of standards, with criteria-specific credits awarded to construction projects. Building owners can achieve various levels of certification by earning the required credits for each respective standard.

The following provides further details regarding the role sound masking plays in the USGBC's and IWBI's building standards and their respective certifications.





LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED)

Contrary to its name, the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED standard is international in scope.

LEED v4 and LEED v4.1 are the USGBC's most commonly used green building standards.

Sound masking is listed as a contributor to achieving one credit toward LEED certification for "providing an acoustically superior environment for occupants."

This credit encourages quality acoustical design, which provides many benefits to occupants, including increased comfort and productivity.

In LEED v4, one credit is awarded for meeting "acoustic performance" criteria, which include HVAC background noise, sound isolation, and sound reinforcement, and masking systems.

With regard to sound masking, the following is the requirement's description as found on LEED's "credit language" page:

MASKING SYSTEMS

For projects that use masking systems, the design levels must not exceed 48 dBA. Ensure that loudspeaker coverage provides uniformity of +/-2 dBA and that speech spectra are effectively masked.

NEW IN LEED V4.1

Sound reinforcement and masking systems have been removed as a major compliance pathway; instead, these measures can help supplement other requirements.

For more detailed information about LEED certification requirements, visit **[LEEDuser.buildinggreen.com](https://www.leeduser.buildinggreen.com)**.



WELL BUILDING STANDARD

The WELL v2™ pilot is the next version of the WELL Building Standard™, the first rating system to focus exclusively on the impact of buildings on human health and wellness.

A maximum of two points can be achieved toward WELL certification by deploying a properly installed sound masking system, as summarized on WELL's sound masking category page:

This WELL feature requires that a dedicated sound masking system is utilized as a means of suppressing speech from other occupants or distracting sounds by increasing the background noise level evenly throughout a given area.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPACES EXCEPT DWELLING UNITS

Sound masking is provided in all of the following spaces and sound levels meet the following requirements when measured from the nearest workstation:

- a. Open offices, libraries, cafeterias, corridors/hallways: 45 - 48 dBA.[33]***
- b. Enclosed offices and quiet zones identified through S01: Sound Mapping, Part 3: Label Acoustic Zones: 40 - 42 dBA.[33]***

For more detailed information about the WELL Building Standard and requirements for certification, visit wellcertified.com.


ABOUT BIAMP


Biamp is a leading provider of innovative, networked media systems that power the world's most sophisticated audiovisual installations.

Recognized worldwide for delivering high-quality products and backing each one with a commitment to exceptional customer service, Biamp's mission is connecting people through extraordinary audiovisual experiences.

Founded in 1976, Biamp is headquartered in Beaverton, Oregon, with offices and manufacturing facilities located around the world.

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