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J. Baba, M. Abdullahi
Page 1-5
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3629
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 81
 - 2 High Temperature Superplastic Deformation and Magnetic Properties Of The Ni3Al Single Crystal**
N.V.Kazantseva, N.I.Vinogradova, D.I.Davidov, P.B.Terentjev
Page 6-9
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3630
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 65
 - 3 The Usefulness Of Cognitive-Behavioral Program To Reduce Test Anxiety In Students With Learning Disabilities**
Somayeh Najari, Dr. Mahnaz Akhavan Tarrti, Dr. Zahra Hashemi
Page 10-13
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3631
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 70
 - 4 Estimation Of Greenhouse Gases Emission From Household Energy Consumption Of A Rural Community In Thailand**
Benjawan Mahittitrook, Nat Kasayapanand, Janthana Kunochomrat
Page 14-18
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3632
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 64
 - 5 Determination Of Selected Pesticide Residues In Fruits Using Quenchers Approach And Reversed-Phase High Performance Liquid Chromatography (RP-HPLC)**
Sanjan Choudhary, Nilu Bhatnagar
Page 19-22
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3633
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 56
 - 6 Mathematical Model To Calculate The Performance Of Low Power Vertical Axis Wind Turbine**
D.Sh. Ahmedov, D.I. Eryomin, N.I. Yagfarova, M.K. Turarbekov
Page 23-25
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3634
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 54
 - 7 Rapid Detection Of Bacteria In Food By Surface Plasmon Resonance Sensors**
X. Kan, S. F. Y. Li
Page 26-29
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3635
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 53
 - 8 Studies On Screening And Microbial Production Of Carotenoids For Potential Applications**
Nithyananda Sastry D., Prabhakar T, Lavmi Narasu M.
Page 30-34
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3636
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 57
 - 9 Analytical Method Development And Validation Of RP HPLC For Simultaneously Estimation Of Chlorpheniramine Maleate, Dextromethorphen Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride In Cough Syrup**
Kapildev R. Jaiswal
Page 35-39
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3637
[Quick Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | Viewed - 52
 - 10 Quantitative Computational Experiment (QCE): An Alternative Post-Positivist Experimental Research Strategy Of Inquiry For Design Studies**
Ali Ghaffarianmoseini, Rahimah Ibrahim, John Tooley, Amirmossein Ghaffarianmoseini
Page 40-50
IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3638
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11	Mapping Solid Mineral Distribution Of The Upper Benue Trough Northeastern Nigeria Using Linear Spectral Unmixing Bello Yusuf Idi, Mustapha Aliyu Page 51-56 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3639 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 51	
12	Is the cadaver dead? Learning anatomy beyond the horizon Prabodha L B L, Nanayakkara B G, Ilajperuma I, Samarawilokrama M B, Johnson P Page 57-61 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3640 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 60	
13	Experimental And Thermodynamic Studies Applied To The Ga-M (M = Mo, Nb, Cr) Binary Alloys A. Belgacem-Bouzida, Y. Djaballah, R. Benhafid Page 62-65 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3641 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 72	
14	Thermodynamic Assessment Of The Cu-Sr System Supported By Ab-Initio Calculations Yassine Djaballah, Nawel Djenane, Aïssa Belgacem-Bouzida Page 66-70 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3642 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 80	
15	The Characterization Of Boundary Layer Flow In The Magneto hydrodynamic Micropolar Fluid Past A Solid Sphere Basuki Widodo, Indira Anggrini, Chairul Imron Page 71-74 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3643 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 74	
16	The Effect Of Prandtl Number And Magnetic Parameter On Forced Convection Unsteady Magneto hydrodynamic Boundary Layer Flow Of A Viscous Fluid Past A Sphere Basuki Widodo, Dwi Ariyani Khalimah, Firdha Dwilshafarina Zahai, Chairul Imron Page 75-78 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3644 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 67	
17	Perceptions Of Bioenergy: Is There A Need To Improve Them Among Instructors And Young Learners? Pradipta Haider, Janne Pieterinen, Sari Haku-Nuutinen, Sirkka Pollanen, Paavo Pekkonen Page 79-81 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3657 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 56	
18	Sound Transmission Class (STC) Of Fixed Window Glazing In Warm Humid Environment Christina Meolastika, Luctana Kristanto, Juliana Anggono, Fefen Sunedi, Hariyati Purwaningsih Page 82-87 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3646 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 67	
19	Co-Digestion Of Cattle Manure And Sewage Sludge – Effects On Biodegradation Rates Renata D'arc Coura, Ana Ferraz, Ana Cristina Rodrigues Page 88-91 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3647 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 56	
20	The Immunoreactivity Of Cytochrome P450 Aromatase In Testes Of Rats Whose Mothers Had Hypothyroidism Aysegül Burçin Yıldırım, Saim Özdamar, Emin Kaymak, Çağrı Sakalar, Betül Yalçın, Sedat Sezen Page 92-94 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3648 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 51	
21	Trunk Flexor Endurance And Low Back Pain In Men And Women James S. Thomas, David W. Russ, Lauren C. Thomas Page 95-99 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3649 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 48	
22	A Novel Method For Solving Nonlinear Whitham–Broer–Kaup Equation System A. Nikkar, R. Ahmadiasl Page 100-103 IRAJ DOI Number - IJASEAT-IRAJ-DOI-3650 Quick Abstract PDF Viewed - 50	
23	Co2 Adsorption On Sustainable Biomass Derived Activated Carbon: A Mini-Review	

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Volume-5, Issue-4, Spl. Iss-2 (Dec, 2017)

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[Volume-4, Issue-2 \(Apr, 2016 \)](#)
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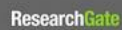
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SOUND TRANSMISSION CLASS (STC) OF FIXED WINDOW GLAZING IN WARM HUMID ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract- Acoustic property of glass material for window in term of sound transmission class (STC) within a warm humid environment of Indonesia is studied. Earlier research, books, and glass manufacturer's manual informs STCs of glass material. Nevertheless, the use of glass in buildings in warm humid air may cause a decrease or increase in STC. The fluctuation of STC is estimated to be affected by warmer air. In the case of developing country such as Indonesia, limited knowledge and awareness of Indonesians may also play a role in different installation techniques and supporting materials used that may create variation in STCs compared to the manual or standard. A series of laboratory test was conducted to see STCs of Indonesian glass in a conditioned temperature higher than is outlined by ASTM. The relative humidity was also set to represent relative humidity of Indonesia. Composite wall testing method by ASTM E90-09 was employed for fixed window glass. The tests informs that STC of Indonesia glass slightly lower to that of UK glass, i.e. Pilkington. Variety in glass types (transparent ordinary float/flat glass, laminated, tempered, and frosted glass) did not produce significant STCs variation, which is 1-2 only. Higher room temperature of 31-32 °C also produced no significant STCs, which is 1 only. This may become a new reference that temperature variation in test room do not play significant role as long as the temperature has no impact on molecular deformation of the test specimen. It is concluded that the most decisive factor of glass material used for fixed window system is density, which for these test specimens remain in approximately 25 kg/m². Further investigation on molecular formation of glass material and study on open window glass is recommended.

Keywords- glass window, sound transmission class, warm humid environment

I. INTRODUCTION

The use of glass windows to replace conventional wall materials, usually degrades sound insulation property of the wall. This caused by thinner dimension of the glazing materials. Since the use of glass is now becoming a trend, buildings that use glass have potentialities to suffer from environmental noise. Glass installation techniques may result different sound transmission class (STC) to that given by the glass manual handbook. Improper glass installation and the use of improper supporting material, such as frame and sealing materials, will easily decreases STC. As for sound transmission, even a tiny leak plays a role on insulation loss. As a rapid developing country, the use of glass for modern buildings is also a trend in Indonesia. Unfortunately, if builders do not care to proper installation and supporting material, the window glass may only provide very limited sound insulation from environmental noise. Loose acoustic regulation, limited knowledge and awareness of Indonesians have caused glass window installation to meet indoor noise standard is not a critical issue [1]. Many studies on acoustical property of glass have been conducted in cities and countries with different climate to that of Indonesia. Thus, cannot be fully adopted. Even standard for conducting acoustical testing of partitions, including glass partitions was set to comply room temperature in the range of 22 ± 5°C

(ASTM [2]), which rarely happens in Indonesia. By ASTM the average relative humidity was set be at least 30 %. This fits to Indonesia relative humidity. Even if molecular formation of glass will only respond to temperature above 600 °C [3,4], a testing condition close to Indonesia climate is considered important to see whether climatic gaps between standard and on site affects sound transmission. In the last ten years, many Indonesian cities have average annual temperature of 28 °C and relative humidity of 70-90%, as is Jakarta the capital city [5,6,7]. The maximum temperature might reach up to 33 °C [5]. This has been seriously increased lately due to severe climatic changes in all parts of the world. Window glazing in Indonesia building mostly uses local Indonesian glass. Others, which designed by overseas architects installs imported glass, but this are very limited. There are 3 main glass manufactures in Indonesia; Asahi (the oldest and the largest), Mulia, and Tossa (the youngest). Asahi glass dominates the use of glass in Indonesia; it produces not merely flat-architectural glass for building purposes but also automotive glass. Mulia produces glass for building, containers and automotive and Tossa focuses on flat glass for building and containers. Apart from these 3 main industries, there are over 30 smaller industries that produce advanced flat glass such as laminated, tempered, frosted, etc. Magiglass is the largest here. Imported glass within limited use in Indonesia is Pilkington glass, distributed by Bali Crafindo Permai.

As a comparison, before go into laboratory test, raw materials of local glass that mainly be tested (Asahi) and Pilkington Glass (as a reference) was compiled as is Table.1. Many standards were set for glass product physical properties, but none are for raw material component and composition. Standards have set glass product physical properties such as blemish (scratches, rubs, digs, crush, knots, dirt, stones, and gaseous inclusions), chip, and crush, etc. [8]. Local standard of Indonesia (SNI- Indonesia National Standard) [9] has also not determined aspect of component and composition. It only deals with density (2450 – 2550 kg/m²), hardness (6-7 Moh's scale), modulus elasticity, etc. Thus, glass manufactures set their own "recipe" to comply with those physical standards. Nevertheless, the main components are always: sand, dolomite, soda and alumina oxide, as is Table 1.

Table 1. Glass raw materials and composition

Raw Material	Asahi (Indonesia)[10]	Pilkington (UK, as a reference)[11]
SandSiO ₂	70-74%	72%
Dolomite MgCa(CO ₃)	6-16%	11%
Soda Na ₂ O	12-16%	14%
Alumina Oxide (Al ₂ O ₃)	0-2%	1%
Potassium Oxide (K ₂ O)	No data available	1%
Cullet	No data available	1%

By careful inspection of Table 1, we see that manufacturers may have different composition of raw materials in forming float/flat glass. Nevertheless, both Asahi and Pilkington fit physical standard of density, hardness, modulus elasticity, etc. [8,9,10,11].

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The aim of the research reported here is to study acoustic property of float/flat glass; also called monolithic glass; utilized for window in Indonesia, especially due to glass sound transmission class (STC). The study is made specific to climatic condition of warm humid of Indonesia. This study may also be a reference for other regions with similar climatic condition and social value, i.e. loose noise regulation and people's limited knowledge and awareness on noise problem. At this stage, we report STC of glazing installation for fixed window, in order to investigate its original STC. Later stage is to study some variations of open window design commonly applied in Indonesia. This is considered more important since open window is an obligation for natural ventilation in warm humid climate, but will significantly lower the insulation property [1]. When necessary, a study on molecular formation of glass material is also planned to support STC tests.

III. METHODS

Testing method conforms to ASTM E90-09 is employed in this research. A specific condition was taken according to Annex.3 regarding the use of composite wall system. This is due to intact glass sample that could not be inserted into the tasting room's door. The standard requires minimum tall dimension of 2.4 m, whereas the laboratory's door is limited to 2.1 m tall. For other specimens, such as brick, gypsum, etc., it is possible to construct intact partitions part by part within the testing room where proper joint between specimens or panels will not significantly affect the STC. However, this is not the case for glass, since glass sheet connectors such as sealant usually be applied thick enough, which may cause significant deviation in the testing process, and thus affects transmission loss value [12]. In using composite wall systems, filler wall with STC of roughly 15 above the predicted STC of the specimen should be employed. In this case light bricks plastered both sides with total thickness of 252 mm was used (Fig.1,2,3). The filler wall was tested prior to specimen installation, and provides an STC of 48. As a reference, 10 mm float/flat glass of Pilkington provides STC 33 [11,13]. Earlier studies significantly proven that thickness and dimension play important roles in the decrease or increase of STC, where thicker glass owns higher STC than thinner ones and larger glass dimension decreases STC than smaller ones. Thus, thickness and dimension were set as fixed variables here. Dimension of 10 mm thickness and 110 mm x 100 mm was used as glass specimen. Specimen variables are flat/float (of Asahi), laminated (of Asahi), tempered (of Asahi), frosted glass (of Asahi) and flat/float (of Mulia). Conforming to the standard, equipment used for testing is Bruel & Kjaer 2- channel building acoustic system consisting of power amplifier type 2734 and 4292 omnidirectional loud speaker as sound source, 2 pieces of type 4189 omnidirectional microphone as sound sensor, and 2-channel hand held analyzer type 2270 as the main instrument data processor. The microphones were calibrated using type 4231 prior to testing stage.

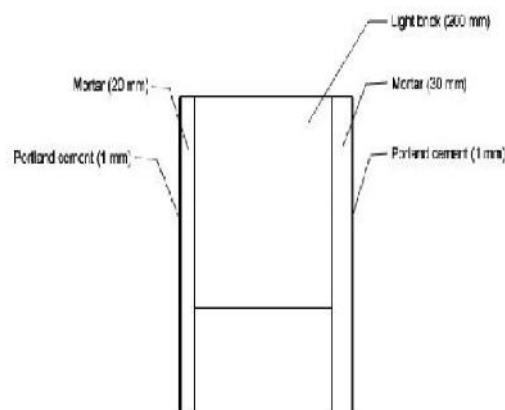


Fig.1. Filler wall composition



Fig.2. Filler wall and its construction

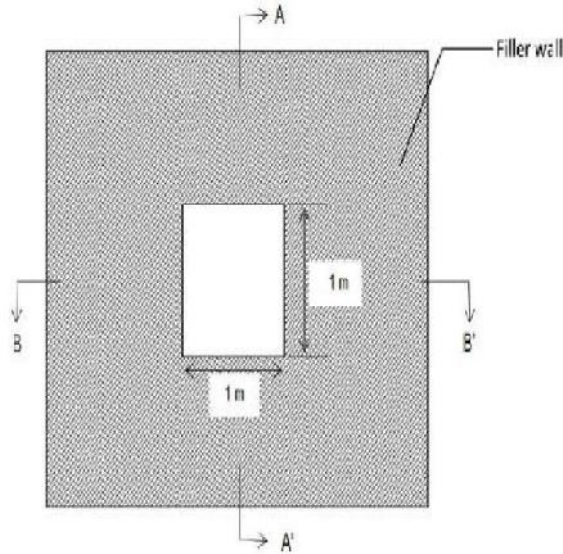


Fig.3a. Front view of composite wall model

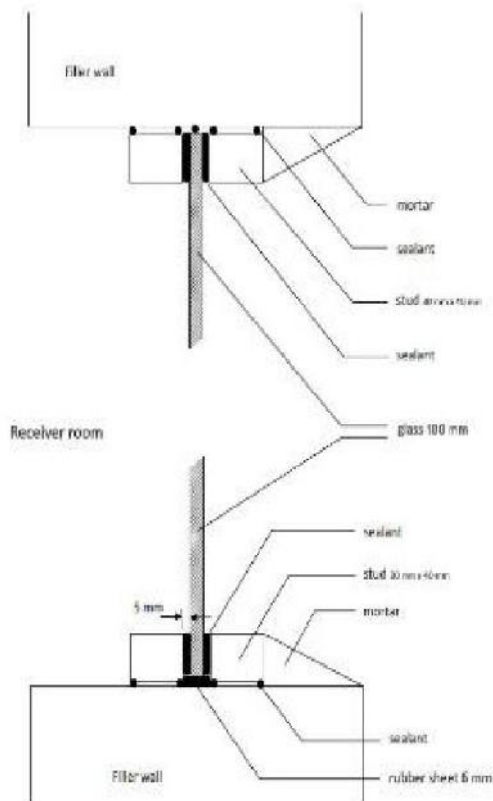


Fig.3b. Vertical section of A-A'

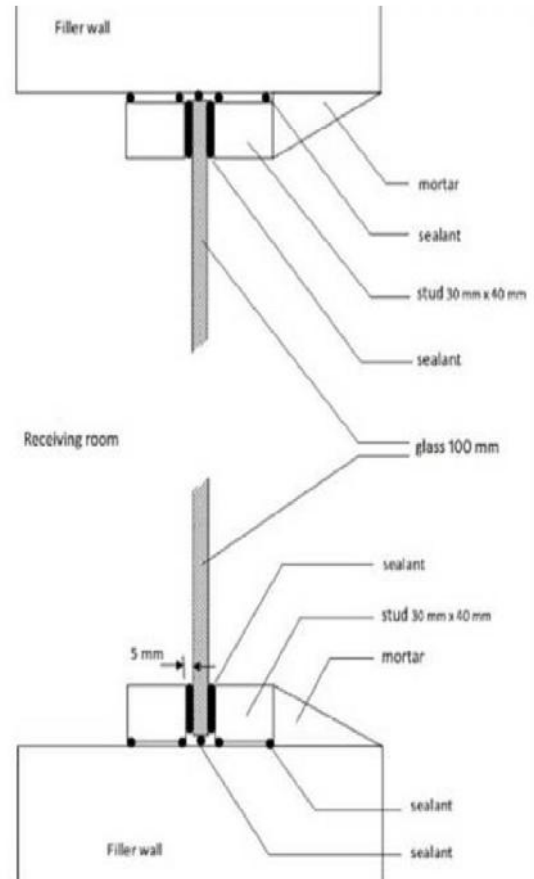


Fig.3c. Horizontal Section of B-B'

Table 2. Glass testing methods

No.	Test specimens	Specimen specification	Room temperature (°C) and humidity (%)
1	Filler wall	Light brick + mortar, thickness 252 mm, density $\pm 180 \text{ kg/m}^2$	26 -27°C, 60-90%
2	Float/flat glass	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	26 -27°C, 60-90%
3	Float/flat glass	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	31-32°C, 60-90%
4	Float/flat glass	Mulia 1100 mm x 1000 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	26 -27°C, 60-90%
5	Float/flat glass	Mulia 1100 mm x 1000 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	31-32°C, 60-90%
6	Laminated	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	26 -27°C, 60-90%
7	Laminated	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	31-32°C, 60-90%
8	Tempered	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	26 -27°C, 60-90%
9	Tempered	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 10 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	31-32°C, 60-90%
10	Frosted	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 5+5 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	26 -27°C, 60-90%
11	Frosted	Asahi, 1100 mm x 1900 mm, thickness 5+5 mm, density $\pm 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$	31-32°C, 60-90%

Each glass specimen was tested twice for different set of room temperature (Table 2 and Fig.4). The relative humidity (RH) remained at 60-90% as is daily condition in Indonesia. This RH level is within ASTM standard. Source room was set for 26-27 °C and 31-32 °C (representing variation of outdoor environment), whilst receiving room remained in 26-27 °C (representing indoor environment solely)



Fig.4. Source room was set for 26-27 °C and 31-32 °C, receiving room remained in 26-27 °C.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

For specimen smaller than the test opening was employed, composite wall calculation was utilized [1]. Transmission loss taken of each frequency of the composite wall then was calculated using the following formulae to initiate TL of the specimen:

$$\tau_c S_c = \tau_s S_s + \tau_f S_f$$

or

$$\tau_s = (\tau_c S_c - \tau_f S_f) / S_s$$

Where

Sc area of composite construction (Sc= Sf+ Ss)

Sf area of filler element

Ss area of test specimen

c transmission coefficient of composite construction

f transmission coefficient of filler element

s transmission coefficient of test specimen

The transmission coefficient of 1/3 octave band were tested to later configure STC of each test specimen.

Table 3a. Test specimen transmission loss (TL)

1/3 Octave band frequency	Transmission Loss (TL) in dB & STC				
	Filler element solely	Float/flat glass Asahi		Float/flat glass Mulia	
	24-26 °C	24-26 °C	31-31°C	24-26 °C	31-31°C
125	37.4	25.0	22.0	24.0	20.0
160	32.9	27.0	28.0	27.0	27.0
200	36.9	25.0	26.0	25.0	25.0
250	40.2	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0
315	37.4	29.0	29.0	28.0	28.0
400	43.6	30.0	30.0	29.0	30.0
500	44.6	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0
630	48.2	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
800	49.4	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
1000	50.9	34.0	34.0	32.0	32.0
1250	52.5	34.0	34.0	33.0	34.0
1600	54.3	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0
2000	54.9	35.0	34.0	35.0	34.0
2500	52.7	38.0	37.0	37.0	37.0
3150	53.3	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
4000	55.3	41.0	42.0	41.0	41.0
STC (ASTM E413)	48	34	33	33	33

Table 3b. Test specimen transmission loss (TL) continued

1/3 Octave band frequency	Transmission Loss (TL) in dB & STC					
	Laminated		Tempered		Frosted	
	24-26 °C	31-31°C	24-26 °C	31-31°C	24-26 °C	31-31°C
125	17.0	17.0	24.0	23.0	18.0	17.0
160	28.0	28.0	28.0	27.0	26.0	26.0
200	25.0	25.0	25.0	26.0	26.0	25.0
250	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	27.0	29.0
315	29.0	29.0	28.0	30.0	28.0	29.0
400	31.0	31.0	29.0	31.0	30.0	30.0
500	31.0	31.0	31.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
630	33.0	33.0	32.0	33.0	32.0	32.0
800	34.0	34.0	32.0	33.0	34.0	34.0

1000	36.0	36.0	33.0	33.0	36.0	36.0
1250	37.0	37.0	34.0	34.0	36.0	37.0
1600	36.0	36.0	32.0	32.0	36.0	36.0
2000	38.0	38.0	35.0	34.0	34.0	35.0
2500	41.0	41.0	37.0	37.0	28.0	28.0
3150	42.0	42.0	39.0	39.0	31.0	31.0
4000	44.0	44.0	41.0	40.0	34.0	33.0
STC (ASTM E413)	34	35	33	34	34	34

By Table 3, we note there is no significant difference in all test specimens. The STCs stay at 33 to 35, which is in term of sound transmission this is considered insignificant. For each specimen, we also note zhat temperature variations did not affect STC significantly. This confirms earlier study that no such temperature variation would affect physical property of glass as long as it below 600 C [3,4]. Beside the STC single number, we may also learn from the STC’s curves, which show that in general, the test specimen work effectively as sound insulation for frequency above 1000 Hz, taken one as an example is float/flat glass Asahi (Fig. 5a and 5b). This curve represents all test specimens that has similar curving plot, i.e. effective for frequency above 1000 Hz. We also note dip (drop in reduction) at 1600 Hz. The dip was more significant for frosted glass since two sheets of 5 mm glasses were bound manually on site. This is due to difficulties in getting 10 mm frosted glass on schedule (Fig. 6a and 6b).

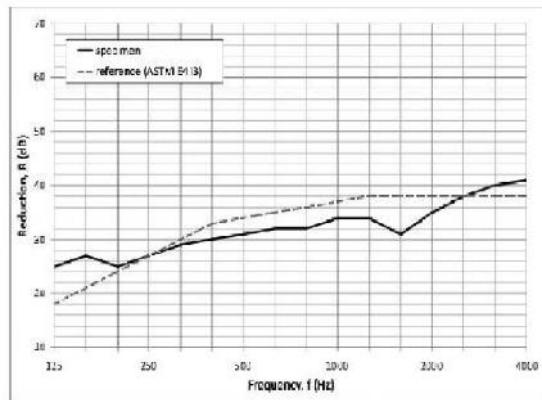


Fig.5a. STC of float/flat glass Asahi at 24-26 C (compared to reference [14])

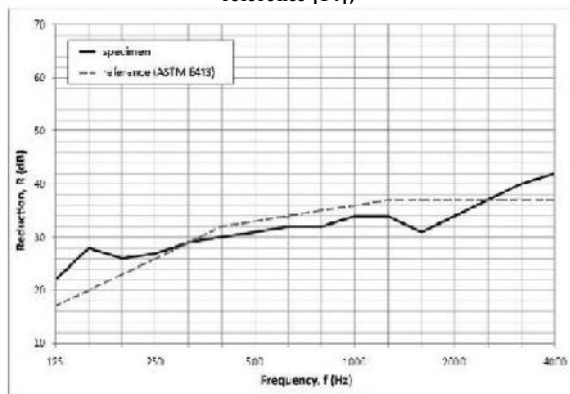


Fig.5b. STC of float/flat glass Asahi at 31-32 C (compared to reference [14])

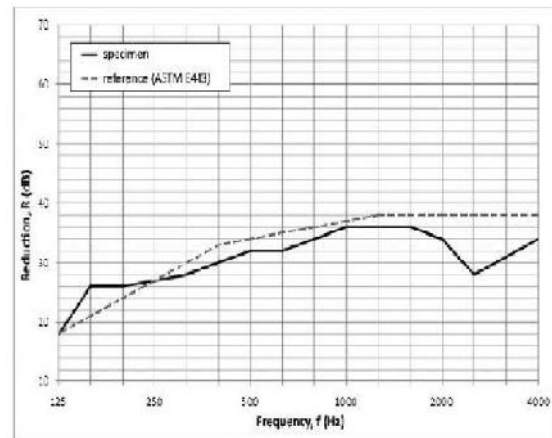


Fig.6a. STC of frosted glass at 24-26 C (compared to reference[14])

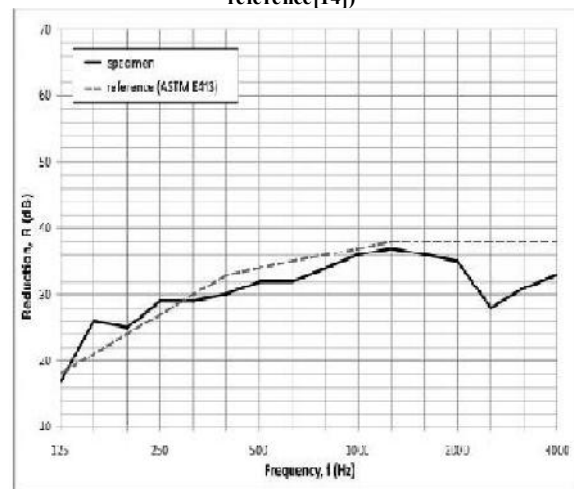


Fig.6b. STC of frosted glass at 31-32 C (compared to reference [14])

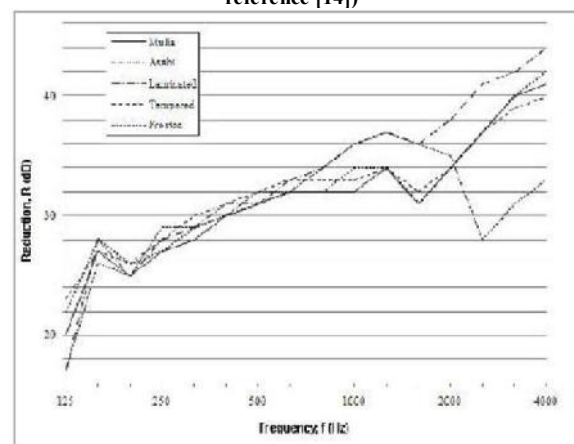


Fig.7. STC of all specimens at 31-32 C

When earlier research proven that laminated glass performs better STC compared to float/flat monolithic glass [11,12], Fig. 7 reveals that laminated even performs best STC among monolithic, tempered and frosted. Thin adhesive layers between glass sheets seemed to play significant role in increasing STC and maintaining TL contour. Fig.7 also shows that laminated glass maintains shallowest dip compared to other glass.

CONCLUSIONS

This study concluded that no significant effect of sound insulation issue was borne out due to variation of air temperature, which only varies by 1. This may become a new reference that temperature variation in test room do not play significant role as long as the temperature has no impact on molecular deformation of the test specimen. Whilst by variation of specimen type (float/flat, laminated, tempered and frosted glass) the STCs vary from 1 to 2. We also may consider this as insignificant. STCs that did not significantly vary for float/flat, laminated, tempered and frosted, has mostly caused by fact that all specimens have similar density of about 25 kg/m². Thus we conclude that the most important factors for glazing are still the density. This also works for other solid materials, where density is the most decisive factors regarding STC value. In general, Indonesian glass with density approximately 25 kg/m² owns STC of 33 to 35. This is similar to Pilkington glass that claimed to have Rw (use in the UK; similar to STC) of 33 (flat glass) and 34 (laminated glass) [11]. Laminated glass produces highest STC among test specimen regardless of air temperature. This study

recommends further investigation on glass molecular formation of each specimen to confront with the variation of the STCs result.

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