Specification Guidance & Acoustic Performance

ModernGlide Movable Walls, Operable Walls & Sliding Folding Partitions

Flexible space planning requires the right balance of acoustic performance, design integration, usability, and long-term reliability. **ModernGlide MG Series systems achieve acoustic ratings up to Rw 59 dB**, delivering verified performance across a complete family of solid, glazed, and automated movable wall solutions.

MG SERIES | RW 33–59 DB | SPECIFICATION GUIDE

What Are Movable Acoustic Walls?

Movable wall systems are floor-to-ceiling partition solutions that can open and close in minutes, dividing open interiors into flexible, acoustically separated spaces. These systems are known across the industry by many names.

Movable Walls

Also referred to as moveable walls — solid or glazed panel systems that traverse a top-hung track to divide space on demand.

Operable Walls

Moveable acoustic walls or operable partitions — the terminology used most frequently in commercial and education specifications.

Sliding Folding Partitions

Folding walls and acoustic partitions — hinged panel systems that fold and stack to reveal or enclose a space within seconds.

ModernGlide's MG Series covers this full spectrum — with solid, glazed, and automated configurations designed for diverse building types and acoustic requirements.

Why Specification Matters

A movable wall should never be specified on appearance or headline dB values alone. Real-world acoustic performance depends not only on the wall system itself, but on how the full assembly is integrated into the building. BB93 makes clear that sound insulation outcomes depend on the completed construction — not just a product claim.

Room Function & Privacy

Identify the required privacy level and frequency of use before selecting a system.

Structural & Spatial Constraints

Stacking configuration, storage location, and structural head support must all be resolved early in the design process.

Acoustic Detailing

Perimeter seals, flanking paths, and ceiling void treatment are as critical as the panel specification itself.

Long-Term Reliability

Finish quality, serviceability, and maintenance requirements must be considered alongside performance ratings.

Understanding Acoustic Performance

Rw — Laboratory Rating

A laboratory-tested product rating that measures the sound reduction index of the partition system in controlled conditions. This is the figure cited in product data sheets and specifications.

DnT,w — On-Site Performance

The acoustic performance achieved on site between two spaces. BB93 measures sound insulation between school spaces using DnT,w — a critical distinction for education specifications.

Key Message: A strong product Rw rating does not automatically guarantee the same on-site result. On-site performance is shaped by the full construction assembly.

Acoustic performance in practice depends on:

- Quality of perimeter seals at head, jamb, and floor
- Flanking transmission through adjacent elements
- Ceiling void treatment and continuity
- Condition of adjacent walls and glazing
- Installation quality and commissioning

ModernGlide MG Series — Product Range & Acoustic Positioning

The MG Series is a complete family of movable acoustic wall systems, each matched to different applications and levels of acoustic separation. Use the right product for the room type — not one system for every environment.

System	Description	Acoustic Rating
MG100	Premium solid-panel system for maximum acoustic separation	Up to **Rw 59 dB**
MG100E	Electric automated system, solid panel	Up to **Rw 54 dB**
MG200	High-performance solid panel for strong acoustic control	Up to **Rw 49 dB**
MG400	Mid-range solid panel system	Up to **Rw 43 dB**
MG500	Glazed system — visibility and acoustic balance	Up to **Rw 43 dB**
MG600	Glazed system — enhanced acoustic performance	**Rw 45–50 dB**
MG700	Design-led glass sliding system for flexible offices	Not acoustic-rated
MG900	Single glazed sliding folding partition	**Rw 34 dB**

Specification Principle: MG100 and MG200 are strong choices for higher acoustic separation. MG500 and MG600 provide glazed options where visibility and natural light are also important design drivers.

Education Specification Guidance — BB93

In schools and education buildings, acoustic design must be considered within the framework of **BB93: Acoustic Design of Schools – Performance Standards**. BB93 states that where an operable wall or folding partition separates a teaching area from a hall, sound insulation should achieve **at least 40 dB DnT,w** — and notes that even this level may not support simultaneous independent use of both spaces.

Education Environments

- **Classrooms & Breakout Spaces**
- **Halls & Multi-Use Teaching Spaces**
- **SEN Environments & Libraries**
- **Music & Drama Support Spaces**

Specification Priorities

- Acoustic control matched to BB93 targets
- Robust operation for daily use
- Safe and intuitive stacking
- Long-term serviceability

For demanding acoustic separation in education, solid-panel systems such as **MG100** are better aligned than design-led glazed options.

Commercial Office & Meeting Room Guidance

In commercial offices, acoustic performance is design-led — shaped by the level of privacy each space demands. There is no single statutory target, so architects typically work within recognised performance bands aligned to room function and occupancy type.

Rw 55–58 dB — High Privacy

Boardrooms and executive spaces where confidential conversations require maximum acoustic containment. **MG100** is the recommended system.

Rw 50 dB+ — Meeting Rooms

Divisible conference rooms and training spaces requiring strong speech privacy. Solid-panel higher-performing systems are appropriate here.

Rw 40–45 dB — General Separation

Co-working and flexible office zones. **MG500** and **MG600** offer a balance of openness and acoustic control. Note: **MG700 carries no certified Rw rating.**

Hotels, Hospitality, Healthcare & Public Buildings

ModernGlide positions its systems for hotels and hospitality venues, healthcare environments, and public-facing civic and community spaces — with acoustic performance up to **Rw 59 dB** for flexible, premium room division. In these sectors, the wall must perform operationally as well as acoustically. A system that achieves a strong dB figure but is slow to operate is not a fully successful specification.

Hotels & Hospitality

Function suites, conference centres, and private dining spaces — requiring fast reconfiguration, attractive finishes, and robust hardware for frequent daily use.

Healthcare

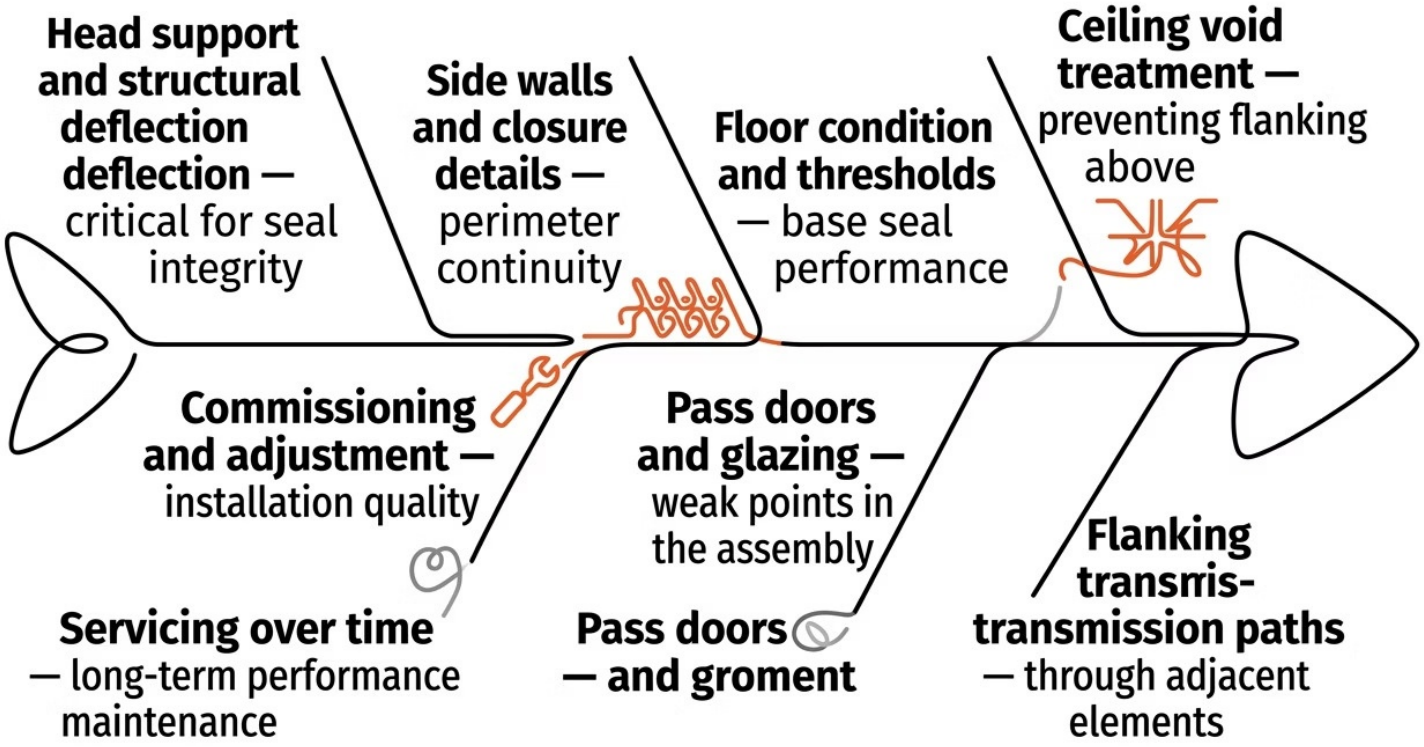
Consultation zones and flexible clinical spaces where acoustic containment, smooth operation, and infection-resistant surfaces are all essential.

Civic & Community

Worship spaces, civic buildings, and community halls — where simultaneous use on both sides of the partition demands genuine acoustic separation.

What Really Affects Acoustic Success

Acoustic success is achieved through the **full assembly** — not just the panel leaf. BB93 specifically highlights the importance of surrounding constructions, glazing, doors, and flanking transmission when considering sound insulation between spaces. ModernGlide supports this principle through its FIS-accredited positioning, emphasising that performance must be achieved in practice, not only in specification.



Key Message: The best movable wall specification is coordinated early, detailed properly, and maintained throughout its full life cycle.

Specification Summary

Bringing together the key principles from this guide — use this as a quick reference when specifying MovernGlide MG Series movable wall systems for any project type.

01

Define the Brief

Identify room function, required privacy level, and frequency of use before selecting any system. Never specify on headline dB alone.

02

Select the Right System

Match the MG product to the environment — MG100/MG200 for high acoustic separation, MG500/MG600 where glazing is required, MG100E for automation.

03

Understand the Difference: Rw vs DnT,w

Specify the on-site target (DnT,w) as well as the product rating. In education, BB93 requires at least 40 dB DnT,w between teaching areas and halls.

04

Coordinate the Full Assembly

Address head support, perimeter seals, ceiling void treatment, flanking paths, pass doors, and adjacent glazing during the design stage — not after installation.

05

Plan for Long-Term Performance

Commission correctly on installation and schedule ongoing servicing. A well-maintained system performs to its specification for the life of the building.

MODERNGLIDE MG SERIES

RW UP TO 59 DB

FIS ACCREDITED