

Appendix A1 – Additional Guidance

Spandrel panels

Where stated in the Robust Detail, spandrel panels are an acceptable alternative to continuing the separating wall to the underside of the roof covering in non-room-in-roof situations.

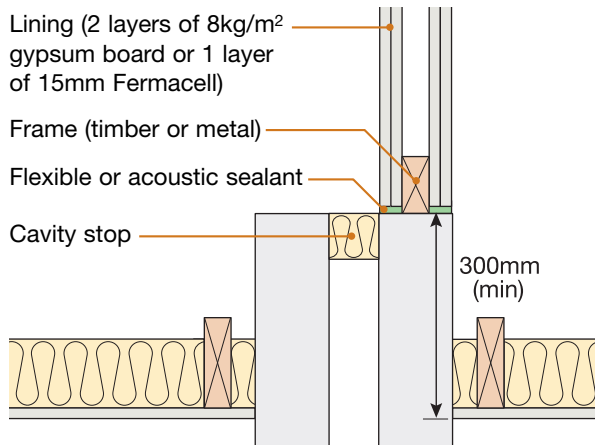
When adopting spandrel panels, particular attention should be paid to Building Regulations Part B - Fire Safety. Below is the minimum specification required to maintain just the acoustic integrity.

The spandrel panel should comprise:

2 layers of nominal 8 kg/m² gypsum-based board (staggered joints) or 1 layer of 15mm Fermacell board (tight butted joints) fitted each side of a 35x45mm (min) timber or lightweight steel frame. Lapped joints or those backed by timber members do not require sealing, but gaps should be treated with sealant or cover strips.

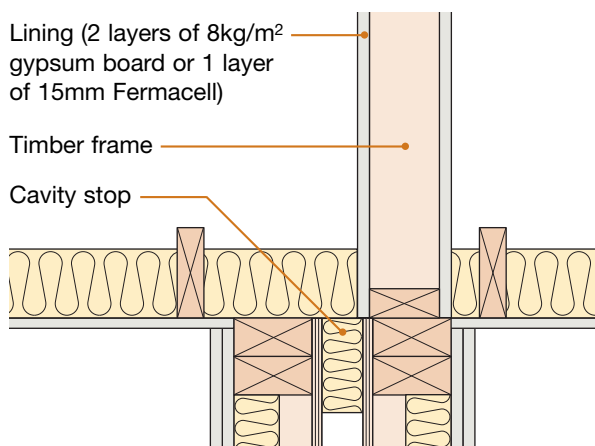
Two panels may be adopted provided a 50mm (min.) cavity is maintained between the sheathing faces, or the stud frames where no sheathing is fitted. Spandrel panels must not connect the wall leaves.

Masonry construction



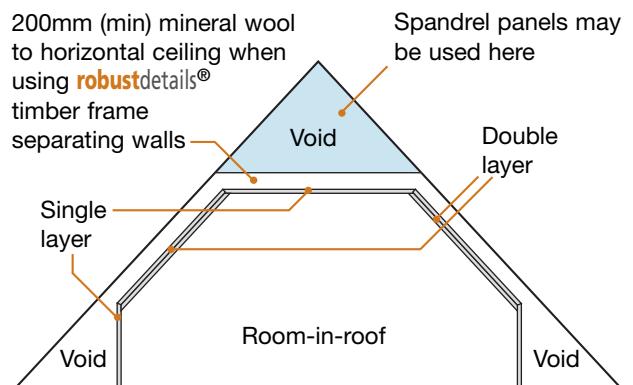
The spandrel panel may be mounted on a layer of mineral wool laid along the blockwork leaf as an alternative to the flexible or acoustic sealant.

Timber frame construction



Room-in-roof – requirements for gypsum-based boards

Where stated in the Robust Detail, the separating wall can continue up to form a room-in-roof. Where the ceiling to the room is directly beneath the roof structure, typically the sloping areas, two layers of gypsum-based board are required, as per the relevant room-in-roof detail for the adopted separating wall. A single layer of gypsum-based board may be adopted in other areas. See also Gypsum-based board section below.



Section through room-in-roof

Gypsum-based board

Gypsum-based boards may be either plaster gypsum-based or cement gypsum-based.

The mass per unit area or surface density specified is a nominal minimum value in kilograms per square metre (kg/m²): the use of a higher density board will increase the sound insulation performance.

Boards should be tightly abutted, and final layer boards facing into a room should have all joints sealed with tape or caulked with sealant. Where two or more layers of gypsum-based board are required, all joints should be staggered.

Thermal laminate boards may be used as the wall finish to masonry walls, provided the nominal mass per unit area indicated in the Robust Detail is maintained.

Gypsum coving is an acceptable alternative to caulking or sealing the joint between the wall and the ceiling.

Installation instructions and further guidance should also be sought from the board manufacturer.