

Change, Challenges And Opportunities In 2024

Richard Hall, MD of Reynaers Aluminium UK, looks ahead to what's in store for the fenestration industry in 2024.

The past few years have seen considerable change for the fenestration industry, writes Richard Hall, MD of Reynaers Aluminium UK.

As we venture into 2024, the situation continues to be tough with high interest rates and further increases in the cost of living continuing to have an impact on investment in projects.

According to the latest Construction Industry Forecast from Glenigan, commercial project starts are expected to see an increase of approximately 8% in the next 12 months and then a further 7% in 2025. The Glenigan report also suggests a 4% increase in private housing project starts in 2024 and an 11% increase in 2025.

No growth

The latest Construction Products Association forecast suggests a marginal fall of -0.3% in construction output in 2024, which includes no growth in private housing for either new build or repair, maintenance and improvement.

However, the demand for aluminium windows and doors looks set to continue.

Future Homes Standard

Great strides have been made in increasing the thermal efficiency of window and door systems to cut energy use. Our comprehensive campaign in 2022 outlined changes to Part L of the building regulations and the continuing requirement to achieve lower U-values, as well as the range of compliant window, door and façade systems we can provide.



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Following the recent release of the consultation document, which sets out government plans for changes to the Future Homes Standard in 2025, we acknowledge that these have provided the industry with mixed news. However, you can be sure that Reynaers will continue to innovate aluminium solutions that are fit for a better future.

Thermal efficiency

We already have doors, windows and curtain walling systems with U-values as low as 0.8 W/m²K without compromising on aesthetics, functionality and performance. Sustainability is a key commitment for us.

To support sustainable building design, Reynaers will introduce a number of new and updated products throughout 2024 and beyond, which will provide further improvement in our thermal efficiency and sustainability credentials. All of which will be tested and certified to stringent standards.

Building Safety Act

The introduction of the Building Safety Act will have a significant impact. It will drive up standards in manufacturing, specification and installation to support safety and accountability.

Reynaers welcomes this tightening of standards as we are committed to manufacturing quality products, backed by robust testing to demonstrate performance, supported by easily accessible product information to clearly evidence accountability.

Digitalisation

Reynaers has a range of new digital solutions due to be launched, including digital passports, a new digital document portal, enhancements to our BIM offering and an embodied carbon calculator.

Product-specific manuals will also be made available through our new digital document portal to support fabricators and installers to find information and instructions easily. [i](#)