

Building Regulation Consultations – Speak Now Or Lose Your Voice

The recent consultations over the building regulations that affect window and door specifications have seen the industry largely failing to have its say. Thus amendments have gone through unchallenged, writes the GGF's Kevin Jones. There are more consultations on the horizon – and your voice should matter.

When we get the opportunity to influence the change that affects our business lives, we should take it, writes Kevin Jones, the senior technical officer at the Glass and Glazing Federation.

The window and door industry has been no stranger to change over recent years. A lot of that change has come by way of Building Regulation amendments. Each of these amendments comes with a consultation process where, as an industry or as individuals, we can give feedback on the proposed changes. These consultations usually run for around 12 weeks.

After the horse has bolted

Here at the Glass and Glazing Federation we do everything we can to inform our members of the proposed amendments and assist them with their responses. We also always submit a response on behalf of our members.

Industry needs as many responses as possible to positively influence the outcome. The industry responses received for past consultations have not been in the number we would have expected given the wide-reaching challenges that business

were facing – and in a lot of cases still are facing because of the changes.

Lower U-values, increases in background ventilation and new requirements for overheating mitigation are just some of those challenges. Too often conversations are had after the changes are implemented that really should have been part of the consultation response.

Future Homes Standard

We will soon see the next FHS consultation on the proposal to lower U-values for windows and doors significantly for new build. The domestic replacement market will remain unchanged. For some that could mean new systems and almost certainly triple glazing throughout as standard.

Extension of Q

A second consultation is also expected on Document Q – security. The proposal here is to extend the scope to include domestic replacement products as well as new build. It currently only applies to new build. There is also the potential that it will propose to increase the requirement for laminated glass to all easily accessible products.



Influence policy making

Regulations have implications for businesses, affecting operational costs, procedures and market opportunities. By responding to consultations, businesses can provide valuable industry insights and practical perspectives that can shape more effective and efficient regulations.

Regulations evolve over time in response to technological advancements, environmental concerns and societal needs. Early involvement in consultations gives businesses a heads-up, allowing them to prepare and adapt in advance.

Responding to regulation consultations should be viewed as a strategic move that brings real benefits. It allows your business to influence policy making, stay ahead of regulatory changes and foster collaborative relationships. So, the next time a consultation paper lands in your inbox, remember – your response matters. [i](#)

www.ggf.org.uk