



Architectural  
Ironmongery  
Journal

WINTER 2025



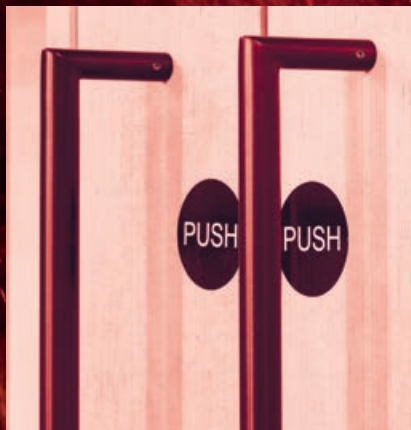
#### INSIDE

- 2026 trends
- Armadillo MD interview
- The impact of European CPR



## EXIT STRATEGY

Industry experts discuss  
the impact, challenges and  
opportunities presented by the  
transition from BS 476 to EN 1634



“

We had a list of requirements that could have been difficult to meet, yet **Codelocks** ticked every box. In my many years' experience, delivering on and exceeding a promise in this way can be rare.

**James Loud**  
**North Devon Hospice**



## smarter access for **everyone**

From doors to lockers to integrated digital solutions, Codelocks products deliver convenience and control in a wide variety of applications.

**Discover how Codelocks solutions can help you!**



+44 (0) 1635 239 645  
sales@codelocks.com  
codelocks.co.uk

© 2025 Codelocks International Ltd. Registered in England & Wales. All Rights Reserved.

**CODELOCKS**  
control + convenience







10



13



24



20



08



aij is published by the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers.  
Elizabeth Bradford Business Centre, 5 Colehill, Tamworth, B79 7HA  
Telephone +44 (0)1827 934 642 Website: [gai.org.uk](http://gai.org.uk)

Although this magazine is the official publication of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers, claims and opinions expressed by contributors and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the official views of the GAI. Copyright the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers 2007 ISSN 0959-986x

**CONTENTS**

WINTER 2025

**NEWS AND VIEWS**

- 04 Digest
- 06 CPA's Hanna Clarke on the White Paper
- 07 UL on EN1634 and third party testing
- 24 Community: GAI news, including leadership overseas trip and Education Awards

**FEATURES**

- 08 What interiors and hardware trends can we expect to see in 2026?
- 10 Meet Alex Nielsen the brains behind Armasmart®
- 13 Em-B's specification for Bradford's Darley Street Market
- 14 Leading voices discuss the exit from BS476
- 20 The state of the access control market
- 22 What impact will the European CPR have?

**BACK DOOR**

- 30 The door knob origin story

**EDITORIAL PANEL:**

Steve Bewick  
President

Rachael Bliss  
Chief executive  
Email: [rachael.bliss@gai.org.uk](mailto:rachael.bliss@gai.org.uk)

Alan Field  
Head of marketing  
Email: [alan.field@gai.org.uk](mailto:alan.field@gai.org.uk)

Douglas Masterson  
Technical and training director  
Tel: +44 (0) 7469 141657  
Email: [douglas.masterson@gai.org.uk](mailto:douglas.masterson@gai.org.uk)

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION:**

Atom Publishing  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7490 5595  
[www.atompublishing.co.uk](http://www.atompublishing.co.uk)

**EDITOR:**

Nicky Roger  
Tel: +44 (0) 7704 336835  
Email: [nicky.roger@atompublishing.co.uk](mailto:nicky.roger@atompublishing.co.uk)

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**

David Smith  
Tel: 07703 532605  
Email: [david.smith@atompublishing.co.uk](mailto:david.smith@atompublishing.co.uk)

**ART EDITOR:**

Heather Rugeley

Updates  
Projects  
Standards  
Events

# Digest



## Mila extends its Supa range adding a lever and escutcheon

Mila has added a new contemporary option to its Supa™ stainless steel hardware range: the Town Lever on Rose door handle and cylinder escutcheon.

The range is available in three finishes – Brushed Stainless, Polished Stainless, and Polished PVD Gold Stainless. All are manufactured from high-grade stainless steel.

The Supa™ Town Lever on Rose handle is designed for the inside of an exterior door and pairs with Supa™ Pull Bars. When fitted with a Yale AutoEngage Lock with a 20mm faceplate, the door automatically secures from the outside when closed, allowing safe exit from within and effortless key entry.

The handle includes a hidden fixing plate that anchors it adjacent to the lock backset, providing a strong, durable fit without relying on surface screws that can pull out – especially important for composite or softwood doors.

The matching escutcheon neatly houses the cylinder on both sides, and for maximum security, Mila recommends upgrading to a Yale Platinum 3-Star Cylinder. Suitable for both left and right-handed doors, the sprung lever ensures a return to 90°, eliminating any risk of handle sag.

The Supa™ Town Lever on Rose exceeds industry requirements, with over 1,000 hours of salt spray testing – far beyond

BS EN 1670 Grade 5. It has been tested to EN 1906:2012 for durability, strength, and performance, offers 100kg axial strength, 30Nm rotational force, and comes with a 25-year guarantee.

Paul Pearson, product design director at Mila, comments: "Our new Supa™ Town Lever on Rose door handle and escutcheon combines sleek styling, premium stainless-steel construction, and proven strength. Equally important, it's designed for straightforward installation and seamless integration with our existing ranges – making it an excellent choice for fabricators working on modern exterior doors."

**ABOVE:** The Town Lever on Rose

[milasecure.com](http://milasecure.com).

# BIM innovation secured Project of the Year award for architect

Innovative use of technology secured Brewer Smith Brewer Group (BSBG) the Project of the Year award at the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT) Architectural Technology Awards (AT Awards) 2025. The architects won for their work on The Silk District Phase 2, which judges said demonstrated industry-leading design capability, and leadership in advancing technology-driven solutions within architecture.

The Silk District project is a large-scale residential development that has transformed an East London site into a thriving, design-led community. The scheme features more than 700 apartments, alongside landscaped public spaces and community amenities. BSBG took on the roles of lead consultant, executive architect, and construction supervision for long-term client and partner, Mount Anvil.

**BELOW:** The Silk District and (right) 4D sequencing which secured the award win for the architect practice

A decisive factor in the success of the project was BSBG's pioneering use of 4D sequencing. By integrating construction programmes directly into the BIM environment, the project team was able to model and visualise the build process in real time. This allowed for improved coordination, proactive problem-solving, and clear communication between client, consultants, and contractors – significantly reducing risk and streamlining delivery. The AT Awards judges recognised this innovative approach as a defining strength of the project.

Shaham Ahmed, head of studio in London, said: "Winning Project of the Year highlights our ability not only to deliver complex projects at scale but also to pioneer methods that add real value for clients and communities. We are immensely proud of what we have achieved with The Silk District Phase 2. It stands as a prime example of how innovative thinking, grounded in technical precision, can create lasting impact."

## Industry reports show downward trend in construction and architecture work



RIBA's latest Future Trends report shows a shift in sentiment about future work among the profession, with the overall Workload Index turning negative for

the first time since January.

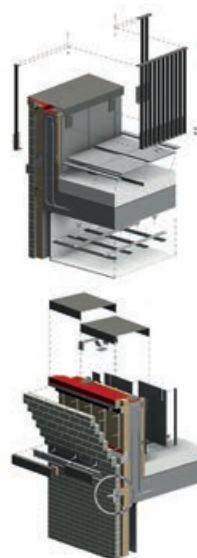
The September RIBA Future Workload Index stands at -2, continuing the downward trend seen since July. A negative balance indicates that, overall, practices expect workloads to decrease during the next three months.

The findings are reflected in the Construction Products Association's forecasts for Autumn which show firms across the whole construction supply chain reporting activity has slowed since Spring.

Behind this headline figure, however, medium and large practices (which account for the bulk of practice revenue) are increasingly confident about future work, again reflected in the CPA figures which forecast total construction to grow by 1.1% in 2025 and 2.8% in 2026, although this is a revision down from the 1.9% in 2025 and 3.7% in 2026 in the previous forecast. The RIBA research shows that smaller practices (which make up the largest number of practices) are becoming increasingly pessimistic.

Both reports say the private housing sector is the most downbeat, with homebuyers and investors wary of economic uncertainty. The view from the regions show London and the North of England remain the most positive about future work.

See RIBA report at [www.riba.org](http://www.riba.org)  
For the CPA forecast see [www.constructionproducts.org.uk](http://www.constructionproducts.org.uk)





# Safety check

Ahead of the government white paper **Hanna Clarke**, digital and policy manager at the Construction Products Association, explores the issues it raises



**"There is a lot of work being done to help manufacturers demonstrate products are safe and for those using products to recognise they are safe."**

**In a few months, the UK government will** publish a white paper with a new regulatory framework for construction products. The aim is to make construction products safe.

But what is meant by a safe construction product? What is the responsibility of the manufacturer? And what methods can be used to demonstrate that they're safe?

We are yet to see what legal responsibilities will explicitly be placed on manufacturers in the new regime, but there are several clues that suggest the direction of travel.

For example, the General Safety Requirement will extend the regulatory coverage to construction products that don't currently sit under the current Construction Product Regulations (CPR) and will also overlap with those that do. This will bring approximately 2 thirds of all construction products under legislation for the first time.

And for the first time there will be a National Regulator for Construction Products, checking that manufacturers are discharging their regulatory obligations.

## **What is a safe construction product?**

A manufacturer might supply the most superb flour, but the quality of the cake depends on the competence of the baker, the method, the instruments and the other ingredients.

Similarly, safe construction products don't necessarily equal safe systems, safe buildings or other safe built environments. But they sure are important in achieving those things. I would describe a 'safe' construction product as one where it:

- Makes clear statements about what the product can and cannot do
- Does not make misleading statements in relation to it, and
- Is placed on the market with appropriate competence and care.

There is a lot of work being done by industry to help both manufacturers demonstrate that their products are safe, and for those using those products to recognise that they are safe.

PAS 2000 - Construction products - Bringing safe products to market - Code of practice gives manufacturers a clear road map as to what they should demonstrate. It can work in alignment with products already covered by the CPR, and give clear guidance to manufacturers who do not produce products previously covered by legislation. It is due to be published early 2026.

BS 8670-2 - Competence frameworks for the built environment - Part 2: Core criteria for construction product competence aims to bring consistency to how the supply chain writes competences in training and qualifications. It is due for public consultation in early 2026.

Building on BS 8670-2, under the Industry Competence Steering Group (ICSG), Sector Led Group 5 - Construction Product Manufacturers is building a programme to create competence frameworks for manufacturers.

The Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI) gives third party assessment of product information and brings manufacturers on a continuous improvement journey, and is aligning with the work of the ICSG. Products that carry the CCPI mark can be trusted to have clear information and to perform as described. ♦



ABOVE: Andrew Allen, engineering leader at UL

LEFT: Carlisle Brass testing taking place at UL

## “Architects and contractors rely on certified products to meet legal requirements and safety benchmarks”

the relevant building hardware product standards. The products were additionally included in doorsets tested to the requirements of BS EN 1634-1:2014+A1:2018 to determine their fire resistance performance when fitted with the various hardware products. Certification was achieved for CE, UKCA, and UL-EU conformity. This strategic move allowed Carlisle Brass to differentiate its products in terms of safety and performance claims, helping position the organisation for more streamlined global market access.

The combination of compliance to EN 1634 with third-party certification to national and international standards, regulations and requirements can help companies differentiate themselves when it comes to responsible product development and specification. Furthermore, it facilitates market access as certified products are often required for public sector projects, international markets and green building certificates, (e.g., LEED and BREEAM). Without certification, products may be excluded from tenders or fail inspections.

Ultimately, EN 1634 compliance, backed by credible third-party certifications, is not just a regulatory requirement but a strategic asset. It aligns safety, quality and trust within a unified framework, empowering stakeholders to make informed decisions, demonstrate compliance and drive innovation in fire-safe design. ♦

# Test match

**Andrew Allen**, engineering leader at UL on how applying EN 1634 backed by third-party certification delivers safety, quality and trust

**The EN 1634 standard plays a pivotal role** in enhancing fire safety across the built environment by setting rigorous testing requirements for:

**Part 1** – Fire resistance of doors, shutters and openable windows

**Part 2** – Fire resistance characterisation of building hardware, such as locks and hinges used in fire-resistant doors

**Part 3** – Smoke control of doors and shutters

By testing to EN 1634, manufacturers can demonstrate the compliance of their products to safety and performance requirements as well as building regulations necessary for supporting market access and establishing brand trust across Europe and beyond.

Central to the integrity of EN 1634 implementation is third-party certification, which involves independent bodies

evaluating whether products meet and — through ongoing surveillance — maintain compliance to the required national and international standards and regulations, which self-declaration cannot match.

Architects and contractors rely on certified products to meet legal requirements and safety benchmarks, which support compliance in construction and building management and help demonstrate that products function according to safety and performance requirements in critical situations.

### Carlisle Brass in strategic move

Carlisle Brass partnered with UL Solutions to test and certify over 60 door hardware products over a 10-month period. Testing was conducted to the requirements of



# Fashion forward: what trends can we expect

Three experts share their predictions for what will be specified next year

**Tom Planck, managing director of  
John Planck Ltd**

In some of the lower end, more commercial environments where maybe budgets are 'tighter', stainless steel is still king, although black is hanging in there as well, but only just! Whereas in higher end hospitality and residential circles, antique finishes such as antique brass and dark bronze are still popular. We are also seeing a resurgence in some of the classic finishes such as satin brass and polished nickel. There is also a desire for larger, more focal point pieces such as pull handles and even lever



handles, rather than minimalist pieces although hidden/concealed products such as hinges and closers are still desirable.

Sustainability is only going to grow with more awareness and importance placed on the environmental effects of everything we are all doing. Looking at where products are made, what they are made from and the processes (energy) used to do so is already in construction, and will filter down to ironmongery soon.

We'll continue to see an uprising in compliance and competency requirements, especially around fire and certification



## “Looking at where products are made, what they are made from and the processes used is already in construction and will filter down to ironmongery soon”

**TOM PLANCK**

following the Grenfell report, and with the Guild's RegAI scheme in place for members to demonstrate such qualities, hopefully this will become more prominent within RIBA and the architectural community.

Having said all of that, with the economy struggling and financing of projects being squeezed, I'm also fairly certain the usual cost-cutting and value-engineering exercises will still be undertaken and the quality of products and specifications will therefore be driven down on projects. So, all in all ... I think 'more of the same' is on the agenda for the short term!

### **Jeremy Barttrop, director at G Johns & Sons**

Homeowners are gravitating toward hardware that guarantees silence and precision. Innovations like soft-close hinges, push-to-open drawers, smooth-glide channels, and door tracks deliver a sense of refined functionality. These subtle design elements create a feeling of calm and control.

A continuing trend for 2026 is the growth in hardware renewal to transform their space without undertaking a complete renovation. The ironmongery landscape for 2026 favours warmer, richer finishes and the use of tactile materials, while moving away from stark blacks and whites that have been popular in recent years.

Some of the most popular materials and finishes include brass, matt black and nickel.

Beyond finishes, design directions for 2026 are moving toward warmth and individuality. Top design trend picks include: material drenching: the process of using the same material across everything from hardware to cabinetry and walls; softness and warmth: soulful, comforting interiors with natural materials and tactile finishes; and layering. Homeowners are becoming increasingly expressive about the aesthetic they want. They want ironmongery that feels intentional and celebrates personality over uniformity.

### **Vanessa Brady OBE, founder of SBID**

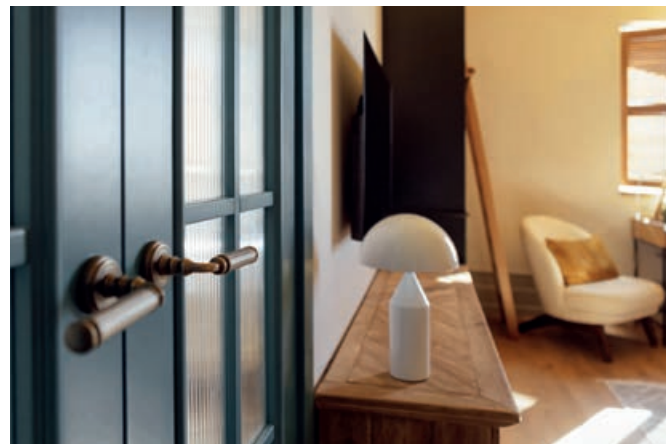
As interior designers, we are seeing a lot of colour washing which looks a little like a paint shade chart of slightly different tones in colour. This is being used to punctuate detail in woodwork ceilings and on walls in a series of slightly different colours. It differs from colour washing which is the same shade throughout. Beige and grey are gone for 2026. It fits quite neatly with a trend towards retro colour combinations and bold colourful large print and pattern all competing in the same space.

The consumers conscience is very noticeable in all age groups with the need to know a product's history and journey in manufacture. These elements are



very important to the consumers choice. There is a very healthy appetite for all age groups to up-cycle quality made items, and recycled and upcycled pieces of furniture sit comfortably alongside brand new items, classic dupes with luxury fabrics and finishes in a variety of metal finishes. This is definitely creating a thread drawing together a variety of eras: properties are being dressed and specified in a variety of old, new and quality crafted pieces.

We are still seeing a very active request for black ironmongery because of the issues that chrome creates with sustainability but hard water makes it a tough choice for bathrooms so we may see brushed brass returning more strongly. However, I think the most popular trend remains burnished and antiqued brass in kitchens. ♦



**MAIN PICTURE**  
**OPPOSITE:** goodbye 'greige', hello colour-washing

**OPPOSITE:** intentional hardware for aesthetic value

**ABOVE AND LEFT:** Antique brass and dark bronze are still popular

# From science to specification

A technology company producing a door hardware product?

**Nicky Roger** meets Alex Nielsen, the inventor behind UAP's new anti-microbial plating offer



**When the pandemic hit in 2020 the** architectural hardware sector became – understandably – fixated on anti-microbial finishes and products. There was a lot of talk about copper, silver ions, and nylon coatings.

Fast forward to 2025 and enter a new player in that mix: Armasmart®. Armasmart® door hardware, uses a smart additive technology that can be applied within an existing metallic plating process to provide in-service protection.

Armasmart® is the brain child of Alex Nielsen, who developed the technology during his PhD at Swansea University in

2016. He was funded by the Royal Mint who were championing R&D at the time and needed a solution to tackle the labour-intensive way of identifying fraudulent pound coins.

The answer was to develop an additive to go into the electroplating solution, so that the identification of dud money could be done automatically. The Mint wanted to go a step further and develop a solution to corrosion and tarnishing which Nielsen also delivered.

The results had Nielsen pondering: in an age of increasing digital payment the days of coins were arguably

numbered. So where else could this technology be applied?

One answer was door hardware. How Nielsen discovered this application was, entirely serendipitous. Professor Dave Penney, one of the academics at Swansea University working with Nielsen, was chatting to his mum's neighbour over the fence during lockdown. His neighbour was Richard Morris, fire door compliance manager at UAP, who explained how the company would like to bring out an anti-microbial door hardware range in response to the pandemic. Nielsen's business Armadillo Metal Coatings and UAP

became partners and Armasmart® was launched.

Anti-microbial hardware isn't unique. So what sets Armasmart® apart from other options in the market? Benefits are four-fold, says Nielsen: its efficacy, aesthetics, cost and sustainability.

Firstly, the ceramic nanoparticles that deliver the anti-microbial power kill 99% of not only bacteria but also viruses. Nielsen explains. "A lot of competitor products use silver ion technology. Silver is highly effective, destroying certain strains of bacteria – the same ones that we've tested like E coli and MRSA, but it's not good at all with viruses, such as coronavirus. So they really can only claim anti-bacterial. They can't claim anti-microbial."

Armasmart®'s initial virology testing was carried out at Cardiff University as part of an NHS Wales programme and more recently the team at UAP conducted a four-hour surface test comparing Armasmart's germ-fighting ability with copper and stainless steel. Armasmart® door hardware was installed in communal toilet area, a canteen area and a bannister where everyone goes upstairs to the offices. Swabs were taken and the results compared.

Armasmart® and Copper were both shown to be >99% effective at destroying

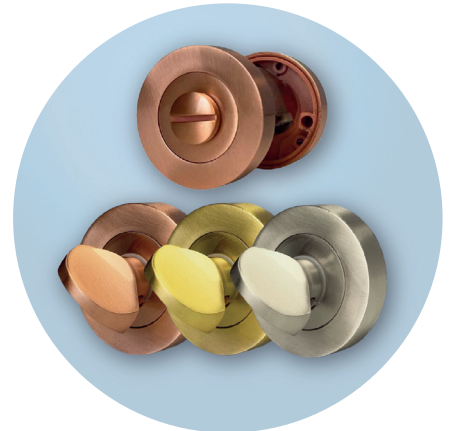
microbes but Armasmart®, unlike Copper, does not tarnish over time. "There's an aesthetic advantage," says Nielsen. "After about a year in a normal environment Copper oxidises and it looks perversely, quite grubby, whereas Armasmart® remains bright and shiny."

A third claim is its cost. "Silver is expensive," says Nielsen. "If you take a door handle with the silver ion technology and our technology, this is noticeably cheaper. Of course specifiers and clients are interested in anti-microbial coatings, but not if they cost two or three times as much as a normal door handle."

Nielsen also points to sustainability benefits as the anti-microbial action does not reduce over time; and it reduces cleaning regime demands, which reduces human error as well as water and chemical use.

#### Licence to kill

Healthcare settings are Armadillo's target sector. Nielsen is particularly keen to work on the NHS's £15bn New Hospital Programme. And in those settings he sees opportunities to apply the tech beyond door hardware, such as to surgical beds or equipment. "That's why we have that identity; an anti-microbial additive



**"Of course specifiers and clients are interested in anti-microbial coatings, but not if they cost two or three times as much as a normal door handle."**

**ALEX NIELSEN**

company," says Nielsen. "There are so many things you can do with it that it kind of blurs boundaries. I like to describe it as a technology company."

Conversations are taking place with other building materials manufacturers. For example for anti-microbial paint which would offer a solution to black mould issues – pertinent following Awaab's law which came into force in October. The plan is to continue to partner and license the product into different applications. "Armadillo is a technology company with intellectual property that we will licence out and then move on to the next challenge," explains Nielsen.

Meanwhile door hardware specifiers – particularly those working on healthcare projects – can learn more in a CPD that Armadillo is delivering to GAI members at regional Hubs beginning at the South East in March 2026. ♦

**BELOW:** Door hardware has been a beneficiary of Nielsen's creation







# Confirming compliance so you can innovate responsibly

Our globally recognized certification marks, including the UL-EU Mark, helps you demonstrate compliance to trusted standards across regions.



Safety. Science. Transformation.™



# Civic duty

Darley Street Market, a public urban space in Bradford with mixed usage, required practical hardware specification from Em-B.

## Opened in July 2025, Darley Street Market

is a landmark development at the heart of Bradford's regeneration and a key project in the city's 2025 City of Culture celebrations.

Designed by Greig & Stephenson Architects, delivered by Kier, and with doors and hardware specified by Em-B, the £23m scheme reimagines the traditional market as a vibrant, inclusive civic space. More than a retail destination, the market champions environmental, social, and economic sustainability – integrating green technologies with the rich cultural heritage of market trading. It is a contemporary, community-focused hub designed to support local enterprise and bring people together.

The new building spans three floors, featuring a rooftop food court, café, and deli with outdoor seating, as well as a large screen for films and live events. It has been designed with flexibility in mind, enabling a wide range of public uses year-round – from food festivals and night markets to live performances and cultural events.

Sustainability has been a key consideration throughout the design process. The building incorporates low-energy principles, including natural ventilation, background heating for colder periods, and a substantial array of rooftop photovoltaics.

Em-B supported joinery contractor Howell Cummins on the project, supplying

door sets and architectural hardware across the development. In total, 56 door sets were delivered, with laminate-faced doors installed in public-facing areas and paint-grade doors used in staff and back-of-house locations.

All door hardware was specified in stainless steel for durability, hygiene, and visual consistency throughout the building. This included pull handles and round bar return levers from UK manufacturer Instinct Hardware, along with dormakaba closers for reliable, CE-compliant performance on fire-rated doors.

With high footfall and diverse public use in mind, product selection focused on long-term performance, ease of use, and practical installation. Em-B worked closely with Howell Cummins from early specification through to final delivery, ensuring every detail aligned with the performance and design expectations of a modern public venue.

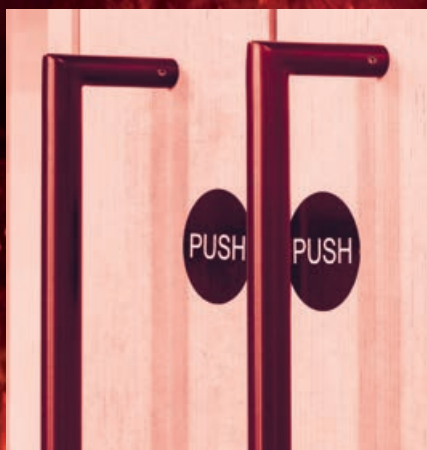
Darley Street Market sits at the heart of Bradford's wider City Village regeneration programme, which includes new homes, improved infrastructure, and enhanced public spaces. For Em-B, the project is a clear example of how thoughtful, well-executed hardware specification can support both the function and feel of complex civic buildings. ♦





# Smooth transition?

Manufacturers, specifiers, and suppliers are preparing for the most significant change to fire door testing and certification in decades: the transition from BS 476 to EN 1634. Leading voices discuss what it means — and if the change is a burden or an opportunity.





**AROUND THE TABLE:**

- **Rob Mottram,**  
Technical manager, ARNONE
- **Andrew Davies,**  
Technical director, Halspan
- **Jim White,**  
Technical director, Forza Doors
- **Simon Ayers,**  
Managing director, SDS London

**Design impact and the push for performance**

The move to EN 1634 will reshape how doors are built and tested, bringing tighter control over heat transfer and insulation. Rob Mottram opened the discussion, noting that for steel door manufacturers, the biggest shift will be in meeting the new EI (integrity and insulation) classification.

"EN 1634 demands quantifiable limits on heat transfer," he said. "For steel doors that means integrating enhanced insulation within the leaf and frame assemblies, and re-engineering core structures, thermal breaks and intumescent systems to maintain performance under higher temperatures."

Davies agreed that the EN standard is tougher — but pointed out that Halspan's early adoption has left them well prepared. "We've been testing to EN 1634 since 2000," he explained. "The more onerous pressure regime — particularly the lower neutral pressure axis — makes testing far more demanding, especially for taller doorsets. That's driven us to use enhanced seal configurations and to think more carefully about glass selection."

White added that for timber doors, hardware protection has also come under greater scrutiny. "Enhanced intumescent protection for items like concealed closers at the head of the door is required," he said. "We see erosion at the top corners and meeting edges

accelerate under EN testing. It's forcing us all to refine designs for durability and fire resistance."

**Balancing testing, EXAPs, and cost**

Testing every possible configuration under EN 1634 simply isn't realistic, so much of the discussion turned to the use of Extended Applications (EXAPs) to broaden certification coverage.

Mottram said ARNONE plans to combine targeted direct testing with strategic use of EXAPs: "Given the modular nature of steel door systems, EXAPs provide a cost-effective route to demonstrate compliance across a wide range of configurations. It's about optimising investment without compromising regulatory integrity."

Davies described Halspan's approach as a long-term testing strategy, built on foresight.

"We've already tested every configuration for 30 and 60 minute doorsets multiple times, including large double doors with overpanels," he said. "We're now finalising comprehensive EXAPs for our Prima range — some of the most extensive in Europe."

White, meanwhile, struck a pragmatic note. "EXAPs will be essential, but they're still fairly restrictive," he cautioned. "We'll rely on them where we can, but manufacturers may need to phase out some less common options to manage costs and coverage sensibly."

**Managing the transition**

For all three manufacturers, running dual systems — BS-tested and EN-tested — during the overlap years presents logistical and communication challenges.

Davies said Halspan's long-standing EN testing programme means they're already ahead of the curve. "Our products haven't changed — only the certification has," he said. "Most of our current BS-based field

of applications already contain more EN evidence than BS. That gives us a strong foundation to build on up to 2029."

White agreed that planning ahead is key: "We switched to the EN regime two years ago, so our EN tests already support both systems until the cutoff. It's about being ready in good time rather than scrambling later."

**Helping the market understand FD vs EI**

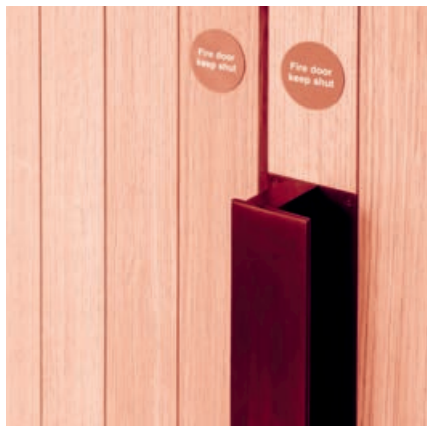
If there's one thing everyone agreed on, it's that market education will be crucial as the industry transitions from FD30/FD60 classifications to EI30/EI60.

Davies said Halspan's proactive work with specifiers through the Halspan Verified initiative aims to demystify the change. "We're working with architects and NBS to ensure the right designs, BIM assets and specifications are readily available. We're also engaging directly with installers and building owners to explain the new requirements in plain terms."

White added that manufacturers should signpost the wealth of guidance coming from certification bodies and trade associations. "We can all help by linking to those resources," he said. "There'll be a lot of misinformation during the transition, so consistency is key." ▶

**"We can all help by linking to those resources [from trade associations]. There'll be a lot of misinformation during the transition so consistency is key"**

**JIM WHITE**



Mottram agreed, stressing that manufacturers should take the lead in educating the market, supported by trade bodies and suppliers. "We have the technical expertise, so it's on us to make that knowledge accessible – through guides, training, and clear communication."

### Testing bottlenecks and collaboration

With hundreds of products needing revalidation, there's concern about bottlenecks at test labs. Davies was cautiously optimistic.

"There's more capacity than ever – several new labs have opened in the past five years," he noted. "The bigger issue is certification. Approved bodies are struggling to recruit experienced assessors, and that's creating delays in issuing field of application reports."

Mottram agreed that collaboration will be vital to avoid backlogs. "We're booking test slots early and coordinating with hardware partners to share data where possible," he said. "Joint testing programmes can save time and reduce duplication."

White, meanwhile, reflected on the delicate balance between collaboration and competition. "Door and hardware manufacturers are becoming more intrinsically linked," he said. "Shared testing



can make sense, but it does mean giving up exclusivity. Still, we'll need to find new, mutually beneficial ways to work together as we head toward 2029."

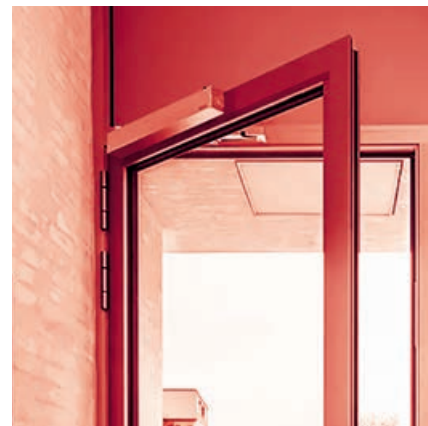
Ayers, representing the architectural ironmongery perspective, echoed that sentiment. "For specifiers, planning and communication will be key," he said. "We'll need to factor testing timelines into every project from the outset."

### Opportunities for innovation

Despite the challenges, the panel agreed that EN 1634 also represents a chance to innovate.

**"It's definitely a headache for specification, but it gives us an opening to work more closely with manufacturers – ultimately producing a better outcome for clients"**

**SIMON AYERS**



Davies said Halspan sees the shift as an opportunity rather than a burden. "It moves the focus from component compliance to the performance of the complete doorset," he explained. "That opens doors for multi-disciplinary testing – fire, smoke, acoustics – on the same specimen, which delivers more robust, better-performing products."

White described it as "both a headache and an opportunity." "The costs are significant and the learning curve is steep," he said. "But the EN system will bring clarity and consistency across certification bodies – and that's good for everyone."

Mottram agreed. "This isn't just about meeting new requirements – it's a chance to develop better integrated systems," he said.

Ayers added that for ironmongers, it's also a moment to strengthen collaboration. "It's definitely a headache for specification," he admitted, "but it gives us an opening to work more closely with door and doorset manufacturers – ultimately producing a better outcome for clients."

### Who leads the learning curve?

On education, there was unanimous agreement that no single group can do it alone.

Davies was clear: "Before we educate the wider industry, we need to educate ►

**CARLISLE  
BRASS**

**ASSA ABLOY**

## Our Grade X Din Lock Range

### The UL-EU Safety Mark

The standard in safety



10 Year  
Mechanical  
Guarantee



BS EN 12209 UK designated version of the harmonised European standard, requirements and testing methods covering, locks, latches and locking plates.

EN 12209  
EUROSPEC



30/60/120  
minute timber  
fire doors



240 minute  
steel fire doors

Speak to our specification team to find  
the right product for your project:

**01254 274176**

[specification@carlislebrass.com](mailto:specification@carlislebrass.com)

- ★ 200,000 cycles 120Nm side load
- ★ Fire Door Ratings from FD30 - 30, 60, 120 Timber
- ★ Fire Door Rating 120/240 Steel
- ★ Various finishes available
- ★ Deadbolt: 304 stainless steel, single-throw 20mm
- ★ Latchbolt: Sculpted 304 stainless steel with ABS insert for silent operation



**"A central roadmap would reduce confusion and duplication. It would help everyone plan more effectively for what's coming next "**

**ROB MOTTRAM**

ourselves. Understand the routes to compliance, live them, and then share that knowledge."

Ayers suggested that trade bodies should take the lead – with support from manufacturers. "If the GAI and others deliver a consistent message, it'll carry more weight," he said.

White agreed that certification bodies and associations are best placed to steer the process, but all parties have a role to play in amplifying it.

As the discussion drew to a close, the participants reflected on what could make future transitions smoother.

Mottram called for a structured, phased transition framework across the industry. "A central roadmap would reduce



confusion and duplication," he said. "It would help everyone plan more effectively for what's coming next."

White would have liked to see greater recognition of legacy test evidence. "The ability to utilise BS test data within EN classifications would have saved millions," he said. "Future standards should find ways to build on past evidence rather than starting from scratch."

Davies was optimistic that the move to EN would in itself make future change easier. "This transition will bring harmony to doorset certification," he said. "It should defragment the current system and support a more integrated, multi-performance approach."

Ayers closed on a practical note. "Clearer planning and communication next time round would make all the difference," he said. "We simply need enough time – and enough capacity – to do it right."

As the 2029 deadline approaches, the mood across the table was a blend of realism and optimism. The EN 1634 transition is undoubtedly demanding – technically, financially, and operationally – but it's also a pivotal moment for raising performance standards and collaboration across the industry.

As Mottram put it: "It's not just about compliance – it's about progress." ♦



 **mailboxesgb**  
LEADING THE WAY IN POSTBOX SOLUTIONS



Mailboxes GB, the preferred mailbox supplier to the  
ironmongery trade for the last 20 years.  
**01922 452111 [www.mailboxesgb.co.uk](http://www.mailboxesgb.co.uk)**

2025/26

## GAI Education Programme

Whether you're taking your first steps in the industry or advancing into specialised technical roles, the GAI Education programme provides a structured pathway to professional excellence. Our comprehensive portfolio of online and hybrid qualifications supports every stage of your career.



**Foundation in Hardware** – an introductory online qualification for anyone beginning their career in, or working alongside, the architectural ironmongery sector.

**Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CIAH)** – a two-stage self-led online course providing a thorough understanding of products, standards and industry best practice.

**GAI Diploma in Scheduling (DipGAI)** – the qualification for professionals involved in architectural ironmongery scheduling, estimating and technical support.

**GAI Diploma in Door Systems (DipDS)** – educating on all aspects of the architectural ironmongery industry with emphasis on the door.

**GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control (DipEAC)** – designed to educate on all areas of the access control market and its impact on the architectural ironmongery industry.

**GAI Certificate in Standards & Regulations (CertSRA)** – an ongoing training programme to educate on all of the standards relevant to the architectural ironmongery industry.

Download your copy of the new prospectus at [www.gai.org.uk](http://www.gai.org.uk)

 Guild of  
Architectural  
Ironmongers

**SIMONSWERK**

## ANSEMI

The concealed  
hinge system for  
residential doors



It all hinges on excellence.

[www.simonswerk.co.uk](http://www.simonswerk.co.uk)

# Upwardly mobile

New reports have shone a light on the rapid development of digital access control. **AIJ** reports.

## Access control is evolving – rapidly.

A new report reveals a maturing market where digital and mobile solutions are becoming the norm, technology like biometrics is on an upward trajectory and sustainability is a non-negotiable.

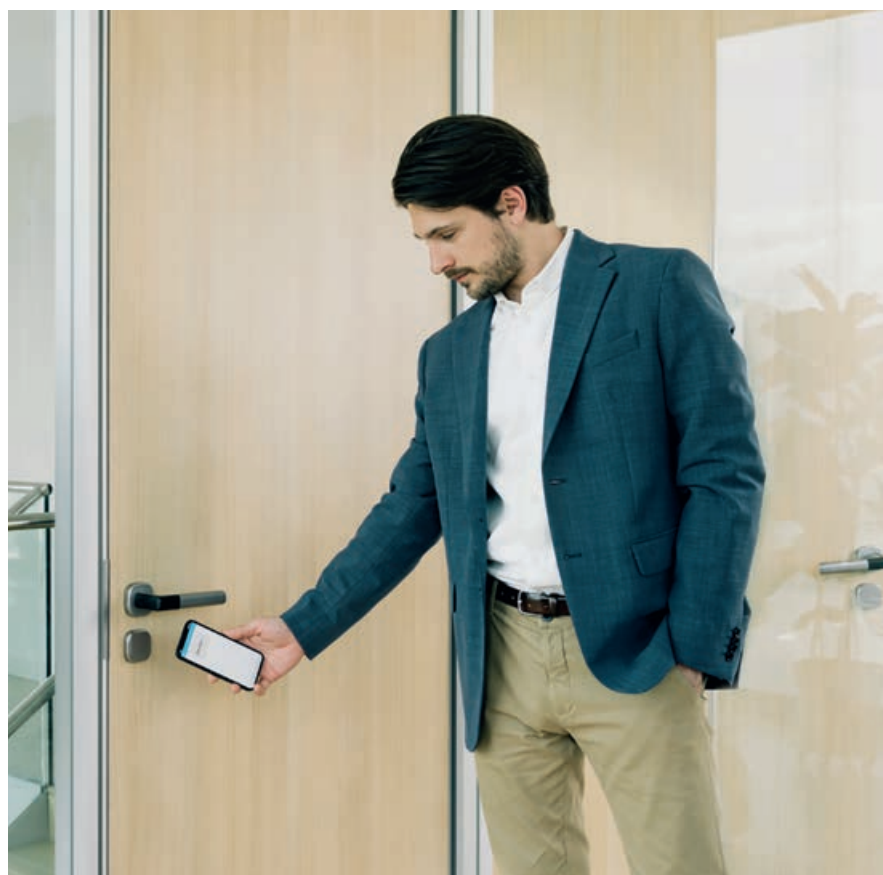
The 2025 edition of ASSA ABLOY's Wireless Access Control Report captures the perspectives of almost 500 security, access, IT, and facilities management professionals, offering a snapshot of the digital access landscape across the EMEA region.

Over 12 years of tracking, surveying and analysing digital access trends, the Report has documented strong momentum behind wireless adoption, sustainability, and cloud services. Future focus turns to intelligent integrations and to demonstrating ROI to cement access control's role in a new generation of smart, secure, and energy-efficient buildings.

Written in conjunction with International Security Journal, the sixth biennial edition for the first time carried a survey commissioned for the Report which finds that wireless (fully or partly) systems have overtaken wired-only deployments among those who manage access digitally.

## Sustainability resilience and more

For many respondents to the survey, sustainability has gone beyond 'merely' a consideration: for 27% of respondents, it is now the top factor when considering an investment to extend access management reach or capability. "Across multiple and diverse sectors, sustainability is moving from a supporting role to a strategic



driver," says Richard Sharp, VP & head of product unit wireless Locks, DAS at ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions EMEA. "Wireless systems, which reduce the need for cabling and complex infrastructure, are often seen as an 'energy-efficient' alternative."

The previous edition of the biennial report found significant knowledge gaps between physical and cyber security professionals. Presented with four important regional laws

and directives which are (or soon will be) critical to cyber and physical security, 55% of survey respondents did not recognise any. "The situation has improved two years on, although the new Report does identify some remaining issues," says Sharp.

The vast majority of 2025 survey respondents (84%) felt their organisation was either already compliant, or in the process of ensuring compliance, or that



these regulations were not relevant to their situation. "With NIS2 coming into force and obligations under the EU's Cyber Resilience Act fast approaching, this remains an area where customers and manufacturers must continue close cooperation," Sharp adds.

Adoption of mobile credentials – and mobile access management in general – has boomed, as widely forecasted. The 2025 survey indicates just over a quarter of respondent organisations are making plans for a future mobile deployment (26% in 2025 versus 39% of respondents in 2023). Fully mobile credential environments now account for 17% of all deployments – more than triple the rate seen in the last edition of ASSA ABLOY's report, in 2023.

"Early adopters have already transitioned: mobile digital access is for the now, not just something for the future," says Sharp. "These organisations are already experiencing the operational agility, convenience, security and sustainability benefits of mobile access. Mobile digital access is embedded."

### Growing data

Elsewhere a report from Mordor Intelligence on Access Control Market Trends and Insights in the UK supports many of the ASSA ABLOY survey findings.

By component, hardware held 61.7% of UK access control market share in 2024, while cloud/ACaaS software is forecast to grow by 8.8% by 2030. By authentication method, card-based credentials accounted



**ABOVE:** Biometrics are on the rise in access control

for 46.2% of the UK access control market size in 2024, and mobile credentials post the highest 10.2% year on year growth to 2030.

By installation type, retrofit projects represented 70.2% of 2024 activity, and commercial buildings captured 40.8% share of the access control market size in 2024; healthcare and life sciences record the quickest growth predicted at 7.9% to 2030.

The Mordor report presents some interesting case studies that underscore some of the drivers of the market.

### ● Crime-linked demand for multi-factor authentication in London business districts

Metropolitan Police operations halved luxury watch thefts, yet organised crime keeps focusing on single-factor door systems. Financial firms in Westminster, Birmingham, and Manchester are adopting card-plus-biometric solutions to satisfy insurer requirements. The tighter security posture is creating a rapid pilot-to-rollout cycle and is likely to keep hardware and software refresh spending buoyant during 2025-2026.

### ● UK government backing for Secure by Design initiative across England and Wales

The Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act and Martyn's Law make baseline cybersecurity mandatory for connected devices and expand security duties to venues once exempt.

Builders must now show compliance at planning stage, shifting budgets from late-

cycle retrofits to early design coordination. Although the new rules add 2-4% to project security outlays, early adopters report lower premiums that offset compliance costs. The measures broaden the UK access control market by pulling residential towers and mixed-use schemes into the customer base.

### ● Cloud-first migration of legacy door controllers in NHS estates

NHS Digital's partnership with IBM accelerates cloud SOC coverage over 1.2 million devices, pushing hospitals toward API-enabled controllers that integrate with patient-flow systems. Data-sovereignty rules limit hosting to UK clouds, but subscription models appeal to budget-pressed trusts. Victorian hospitals with thick walls opt for wireless locks to minimise drilling, while procurement cycles of 18-24 months delay revenue recognition but provide long visibility for suppliers.

### ● Uptake of Bluetooth credentials in university campuses

Heriot-Watt University's campus-wide rollout highlights the sector's drive to cut plastic card costs by 40-60% and give overseas students a frictionless experience. Summer breaks create intense June–August demand peaks. Research labs still require biometrics, so integrators must deliver hybrid mobile-plus-reader designs. Opt-in privacy policies have produced dual credential regimes that raise system complexity yet improve satisfaction scores, reinforcing the move to mobile. ♦

**Download the ASSA ABLOY Wireless Access Control Report 2025 at <https://bit.ly/41QhMvB>. An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI Learning Hub. Completion of this quiz is worth one CPD point towards Registered Professional**



**status.**  
learninghub.  
gai.org.uk/  
totara/  
dashboard/  
index.php

**The tighter security posture is creating a rapid pilot-to-rollout cycle and is likely to keep hardware refresh spending buoyant**

# Dear GAI...

I have heard the new European Construction products Regulation (CPR) will greatly impact European door and hardware standards. What do I need to know and how can I prepare for this?



## The European Union's revised Construction

Products Regulation (CPR) is reshaping how building hardware/architectural ironmongery will be tested, declared and placed on the market. This is particularly relevant given how many hardware products fall within the scope of harmonised standards. The new CPR moves beyond safety and fitness-for-purpose rules: it embeds sustainability and digitalisation into the core requirements which manufacturers must meet.

### What has changed?

While the overarching goal remains the same – to harmonise the internal market for construction products – the revised CPR broadens its scope in four key areas:

- A review of the essential characteristics within harmonised standards.
- Mandatory environmental information and lifecycle assessment requirements.
- Tighter third-party oversight and clearer rules for CE marking and Declarations of Performance.
- A programme of revised harmonised standards (hENs) and digital product information that will change how product families are defined and assessed.

The CPR Regulation entered into force in the EU in early 2025, with most provisions becoming applicable from 8 January 2026. These changes will only impact the door and hardware sector once new harmonised standards are published which is unlikely

to happen for a number of years. In the UK, a parallel review of the existing UK CPR is also under way. The UK Green Paper for Construction Product Reform, published in February 2025, indicates future likely alignment with the EU framework in order to avoid divergence. The UK government will publish a White Paper on this in early 2026.

### Why building hardware is affected

Building hardware products fall squarely within the CPR's remit because they contribute directly to the safety, durability, fire performance, acoustic and environmental characteristics of construction works. Under the revised CPR, product families in Annexes are being updated and new "essential performance information" categories (including environmental footprint metrics) are being embedded in harmonised standards. For hardware manufacturers this means that existing test regimes – long focused on

mechanical performance and durability – will be supplemented by sustainability data and digital identification requirements.

It is also being discussed that fire performance could be removed as an essential characteristic from CE marking requirements for certain hardware products.

Future hardware standards may be split into separate parts: one containing all essential characteristics (e.g. safety, environmental, digital) required for CE marking; and others addressing testing methodologies, design guidance, and non-essential characteristics.

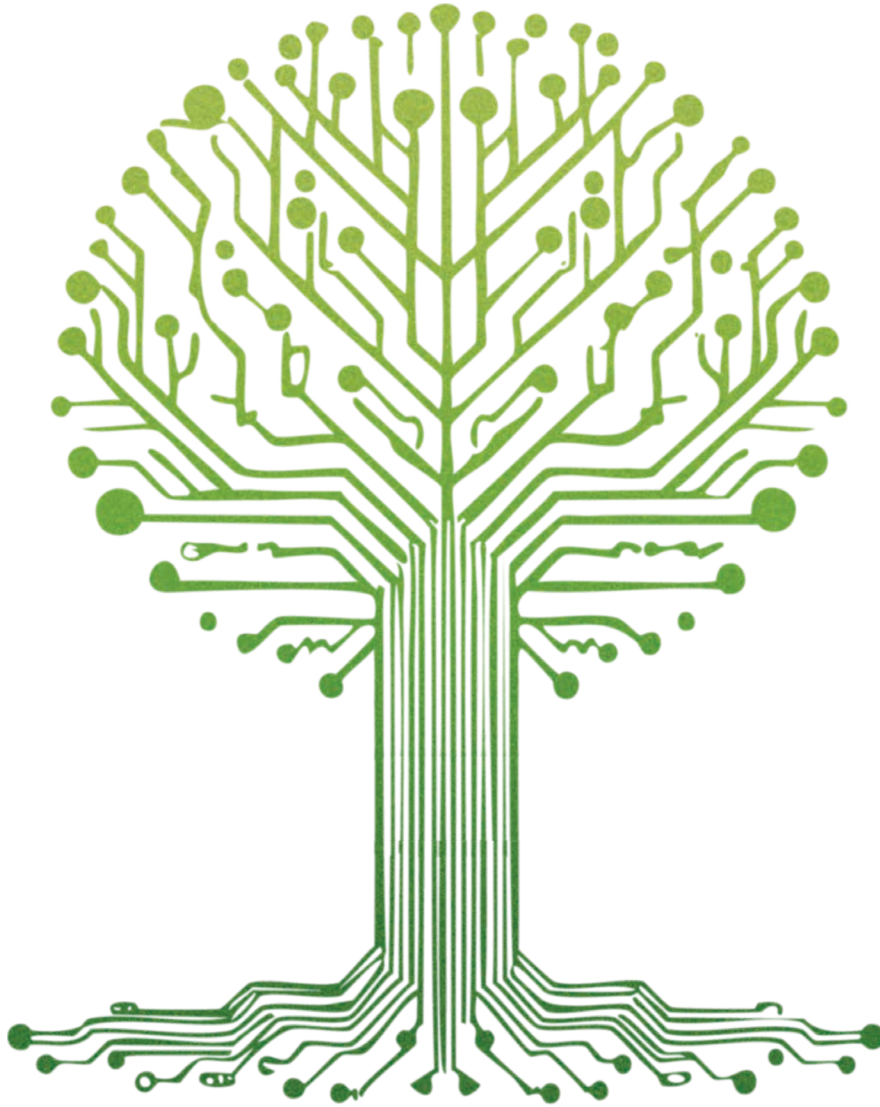
Such restructuring could alter how testing and certification are managed – potentially requiring manufacturers to adapt their compliance strategies to multiple linked standards.

### What's the impact?

#### New and revised harmonised standards (hENs)

Standards bodies are updating hENs to include the new environmental and digital requirements alongside traditional performance clauses. That means familiar test standards items will be revised – often to add methods for measuring durability in circular economy contexts or for capturing environmental data. Manufacturers must track hEN revision progress carefully: only when a relevant hEN is available do the new legal rules fully apply for that product family.

**"Existing testing regimes will be supplemented by sustainability data and digital identification requirements"**



The CPR sets out a phased transition, but, the long-term direction is clear: hardware standards will be broader in scope.

#### **Mandatory environmental performance data**

One of the most consequential changes is the requirement to provide standardised environmental information. The revised CPR links product compliance to lifecycle thinking: manufacturers will need to calculate and declare environmental performance metrics using harmonised methods (often comparable to the data found in EPDs) when the relevant harmonised standard requires it. For building hardware, this will likely involve defined indicators (e.g., carbon footprint

over a product's life, recyclability, content of critical materials) and may lead to new test/reporting burdens for otherwise small components.

#### **Stronger role for notified bodies and CE marking changes**

The new CPR clarifies when and how third-party assessment (notified body involvement) is required. Where harmonised standards assign certain assessment tasks to notified bodies, manufacturers will have to engage those bodies for initial type testing, factory production control verification or ongoing surveillance. The CE marking and Declaration of Performance (DoP) remain

#### **Five key actions:**

- Audit product documentation
- Maintain fire-performance assurance
- Monitor CEN activities
- Prepare for environmental assessment
- Be "digital ready"

the mechanism to show conformity, but their content and the evidential requirements will become richer and more traceable.

#### **Digital product information and traceability**

Digitalisation is at the heart of the new Regulation: product information will increasingly be made available in machine-readable formats and linked to product identifiers. This will facilitate market surveillance, reuse/recovery operations and public procurement. For hardware, expect requirements for unique product identification, a digital declaration or data sheet and possibly links to a Digital Product Passport where mandated.

#### **Opportunities**

The revised Construction Products Regulation represents more than a technical update – it's a strategic shift in how compliance, sustainability, and transparency intersect. For the building hardware sector, success will depend on early engagement and adaptability. While the framework introduces new challenges, it also offers opportunities: clearer product differentiation, improved traceability, and stronger positioning in sustainability-driven procurement markets.

The message is simple: start preparing now. The next generation of hardware standards will not only measure how products perform — but how they contribute to a safer, greener, and more transparent built environment. ♦

**An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI Learning Hub.**

**Completion of this quiz is worth one CPD point towards Registered Professional status. [learninghub.gai.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php](https://learninghub.gai.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php)**



## GAI TALK

**Rachael Bliss**

GAI chief executive



As we close out 2025, it's clear that our industry is entering one of the most significant periods of change in recent memory. This edition of AIJ highlights just how quickly the landscape is shifting – from new fire testing regimes to digital transformation and evolving expectations around safety and accountability.

The transition from BS 476 to EN 1634 is a central theme, and the perspectives in our cover story reflect both the scale of the challenge and the opportunity. The EN standards demand more rigorous, holistic performance, encouraging closer integration between doors, hardware and systems. While the testing burden is considerable, the long-term outcome will be a clearer, more consistent framework that strengthens the quality and reliability of what we deliver.

Looking ahead, competence will be a defining focus for the GAI in 2026. In our recent member voice responses, you told us clearly that the GAI must ensure RegAI is recognised beyond our own community – as a credible, trusted demonstration of professional competence across the wider construction sector. We have taken that mandate seriously.

We are already engaging with industry bodies, regulators and standards groups to make sure architectural ironmongery is properly represented, and that RegAI aligns with the national competency landscape taking shape. Competence is fast becoming a statutory requirement, and the GAI will continue to lead from the front in championing both the skills and accountability our industry demands.

Together, we are shaping a safer, smarter and more forward-looking built environment.

# GAI Community...

## GAI international trip strengthens global connections

The GAI team has recently been connecting with overseas members in a two-week outreach trip. The visit saw GAI chief executive Rachael Bliss and technical & training Director Douglas Masterson meeting members in Dubai and Hong Kong, at both formal events and informal engagements, helping to strengthen ties across borders.

In Dubai, the GAI leadership team attended the Big 5 construction exhibition, meeting with manufacturers, clients and education partners. The visit culminated in a well-attended GCC Community Hub meeting, where regional members discussed opportunities for collaboration, training and local market developments.

"The engagement in Dubai was exceptional," said Bliss. "There is a clear appetite for greater connection, and we are committed to ensuring our international members feel supported and valued as part of the GAI family."

In Hong Kong, a second Community Hub meeting offered a platform for members in the East Asia region to connect, share knowledge, and provide feedback to the Guild. Masterson also delivered technical updates and provided resources on the latest guidance and training developments.

These international visits form part of the Guild's wider strategy to deepen engagement and accessibility for members around the world.

**There is a clear appetite for greater connection and we are committed to ensuring international members feel valued**

**RACHAEL BLISS**

**BELOW** The GAI team visited Hong Kong and Dubai





LEFT: Raffle London OWO, the Winner of Winners 2024 which was won by HAF

The range of submissions highlights the breadth of talent and creativity within the architectural ironmongery profession

talent and creativity within the architectural ironmongery profession.

Judging will begin with an initial panel convening on Tuesday 16 December. The panel, composed of architects, designers, specifiers and manufacturers, will evaluate each entry against strict criteria, including technical performance, aesthetics, compliance, and end-user benefit.

Category shortlists will be announced in January 2026 and winners will be celebrated at a high-profile awards ceremony in May 2026 in London. The GAI thanks all those who entered and looks forward to unveiling the shortlisted projects and products soon.

## Judging begins on GAI/RIBA Specification Awards

Entries for the GAI/RIBA Specification Awards 2026, sponsored by ASSA ABLOY, officially closed on 30 November, marking the conclusion of an exciting submissions period. With entries received from across the UK and international markets, this year's awards have attracted one of the most competitive fields to date.

The 10 award categories, which include two new additions – Sustainability and Small Project – saw strong representation from projects and products demonstrating excellence, innovation and environmental responsibility. The range of submissions once again highlights the breadth of





# GAI Education Awards 2025: honouring the industry's rising stars

A sense of pride and celebration was the theme at the GAI Education Awards 2025, sponsored by dormakaba, held on Thursday 20 November at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London's Covent Garden. Bringing together students, employers, Guild leaders and guests from across the industry, the afternoon shone a spotlight on the passion, commitment and professionalism that define the GAI community.

Successful learners from the 2024/25 education programme were presented with their qualifications, with medals awarded to those achieving the highest results in each stage. It was also the first Education Awards under the presidency of Steve Bewick, who praised the learners for their determination and drive.

"Education is one of the fundamental pillars of the Guild, and today we see the very best examples of that commitment," Bewick said. "These learners represent

the future of our industry, and I couldn't be prouder to share in this celebration of their achievements."

GAI chief executive Rachael Bliss highlighted how ongoing education underpins competence and professionalism across the sector. "In a landscape shaped by the Construction Products Competence Framework, continuous learning is more vital than ever," she said. "Our members' commitment to formal qualifications demonstrates not only technical excellence but accountability — qualities that safeguard trust and raise standards across the entire built environment."

The ceremony culminated in the announcement of Neil Rule from Access2, as winner of the prestigious Pinnacle Award, sponsored by ASSA ABLOY, recognising the top-performing student across all Stage 3 courses. "I'm honoured to receive this award," said Rule.



ABOVE: The Grand Connaught Rooms setting

**"No matter how long you've been in this industry, there's always something new to learn. The GAI's education programme challenges even the most experienced professionals"**

**NEIL RULE, PINNACLE WINNER**

"No matter how long you've been in this industry, there's always something new to learn. The GAI's education programme challenges even the most experienced professionals to keep developing and adapting. I'm incredibly proud to have been awarded the GAI Pinnacle Award."

The GAI extends heartfelt congratulations to all students, medal winners and educators who make this programme such a success — ensuring that learning and professional competence remain at the forefront of our industry's future.

BELOW: Award winners celebrate







## Free courses prove to be a hit with members

Since their launch in September, the Guild's 50 free business courses for corporate members have proven to be a major success. Many companies have already taken advantage of this valuable member benefit, using the new resources to strengthen staff development and enhance workplace skills.

Available through the GAI Learning Hub, the courses cover a wide range of topics beyond ironmongery – from leadership, communication and time management to project planning, customer service and coaching techniques. The flexibility of the modules means that businesses can tailor learning to individual or team needs, helping to build structured training programmes that go beyond technical expertise.

If your organisation hasn't yet taken advantage of this opportunity, the courses are free to all GAI corporate members. They are an excellent way to strengthen teams, improve productivity, and embed a culture of learning across your business.

The courses cover a wide range of topics beyond ironmongery – from leadership to project planning and coaching

## GAI team update: Dealtry success earns promotion

The Guild is pleased to announce the promotion of David Dealtry to the position of senior membership engagement & development executive. A familiar face to many within the GAI network, Dealtry is a passionate advocate for member engagement and professional support.

In his new role, Dealtry will be focused on expanding outreach efforts and ensuring members are able to

maximise their benefits. He will lead regional visits, contribute to Hub activities and support both corporate and individual members in navigating the Guild's education, technical and community resources.

Dealtry's promotion reflects his good work since joining the Guild and his unwavering commitment to helping members get the most from their affiliation.

## My GAI App – BETA testers wanted



A new way to connect with the GAI is on its way. The Guild is currently developing the 'My GAI' mobile app, due for release in early 2026. The app will provide members with seamless access to news, resources, event information and personal records from their mobile device.

As part of the development phase, GAI is inviting volunteers to help test the BETA version of the app. BETA testers will get a first look at new features and have the opportunity to shape the final experience through their feedback.

**Members interested in participating in BETA testing should email [marketing@gai.org.uk](mailto:marketing@gai.org.uk) to register. Your input will help ensure the app is intuitive, useful and tailored to your needs.**

BETA testers will get a first look at new features and have the opportunity to shape the final experience

## GAI Education Programme 2025/26 – last chance to enrol

There's still time to enrol on the GAI Education Programme for the 2025/26 academic year, but the deadline is fast approaching: enrolment officially closes on Friday 19 December 2025.

The GAI Education Programme offers structured learning from introductory to advanced diploma level, including internationally recognised qualifications. Whether you're starting your career in ironmongery or building specialist expertise, now is the time to join the programme. Full details are available in the GAI Education Prospectus 2025/26 on the GAI website: [www.gai.org.uk/learning](http://www.gai.org.uk/learning)





## Fire Safety Compliance meets Flawlessly Finished Architectural Door Controls

No matter the project, you can trust that Boss door controls deliver safety, compliance, and robust functionality, with the highest quality of finish. Available in every RAL colour, plated steel, or bespoke finish Boss mechanical, electro-magnetic and automated swing door controls offer a diverse range of finishes to match all designs and functional requirements, while meeting fire safety standards.

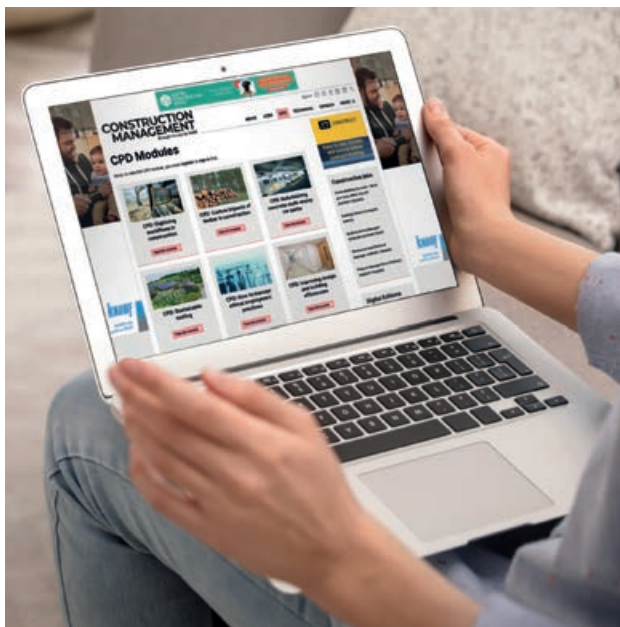
Robust Functionality with the Highest-Quality Design & Finish

**bossdoorcontrols.com**

**Tel: +44(0)1506 467477**



ALLEGION



## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT | CPD

Brought to you by CIOB

### Take CM's latest CPDs

- Sustainable roofing
- How to manage ethical employment practices
- Improving design and building efficiencies
- Managing highways surface water
- Avoiding common roof defects
- Managing occupational health risks in archaeology
- Automated, mastless machine control
- Roof glazing – more than glass
- How to deliver cleaner power to construction sites
- Mechanical ventilation's role in improving indoor air quality
- Solar PV in pitched roofing applications
- Managing biodiversity on construction sites
- Head protection in construction
- Timber and the circular economy
- Drainage pumps – construction, climate change and consultancy

Keep up to date with the latest Construction Management CPDs in our dedicated online channel:

► [constructionmanagement.co.uk/cpd-modules](https://constructionmanagement.co.uk/cpd-modules) ◀



# The origin story

Doors may have been in existence for centuries but the modern lock and latch system for opening and closing them is a relatively recent invention

## The door knob as we know it today was

invented by an African American innovator Osbourn Dorsey. On December 10, 1878, Dorsey was granted U.S. Patent No. 210,764 for his improvements in door-closing devices, specifically door knobs and door stops.

Dorsey's invention was a major improvement over previous versions of door knobs and door stops. His advanced design enhanced their functionality and usability. It included a rod, sliding bar, and lever system that allowed doors to stay open at a desired angle or close securely, preventing unwanted movement due to drafts or force.

The original invention of the door knob is often credited to 18th-century English locksmiths. American inventor and

businessman Walter R. Schlage is also recognised for significant advancements in modern door locks, including the cylindrical pin-tumbler design. Dorsey's 1878 patent helped refine these mechanisms for everyday use.

Before Dorsey invented the door knob, people relied on some type of latch to close their doors, with others using leather straps as handles. Surface rim locks were first used by the Egyptians and it is likely a bronze or iron form of pull handle.

During the reign of Louis XIV (1643 - 1715), in France very decorative gilded door knobs were created to mirror the opulent lifestyle he created for himself and his courtiers. It is assumed that crude concealed mortice locks were invented then so that these



ABOVE: Osbourn Dorsey

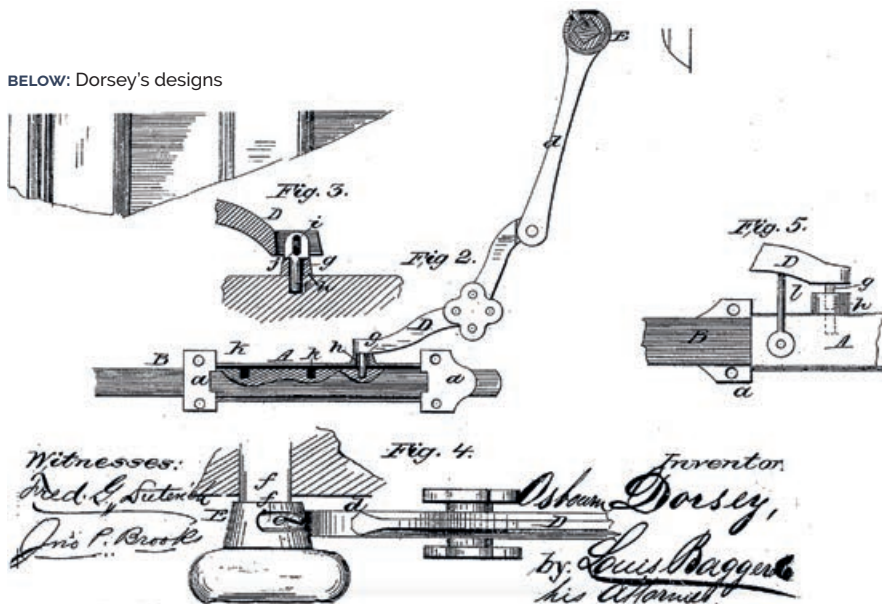
Dorsey's design helped shape the way doors function today; his work laid the foundation for the modern lock and latch system.

delicately crafted door knobs could be screwed to the face of the door maintaining a crisp clean appearance.

Even after the door knob was invented it took years for people to embrace them fully and begin installing them on the doors in their homes. Eventually Dorsey's invention became a ubiquitous success, and he soon began to manufacture on a large scale.

Dorsey's door knob and stop design helped shape the way doors function today; his work laid the foundation for the modern lock and latch system. ♦

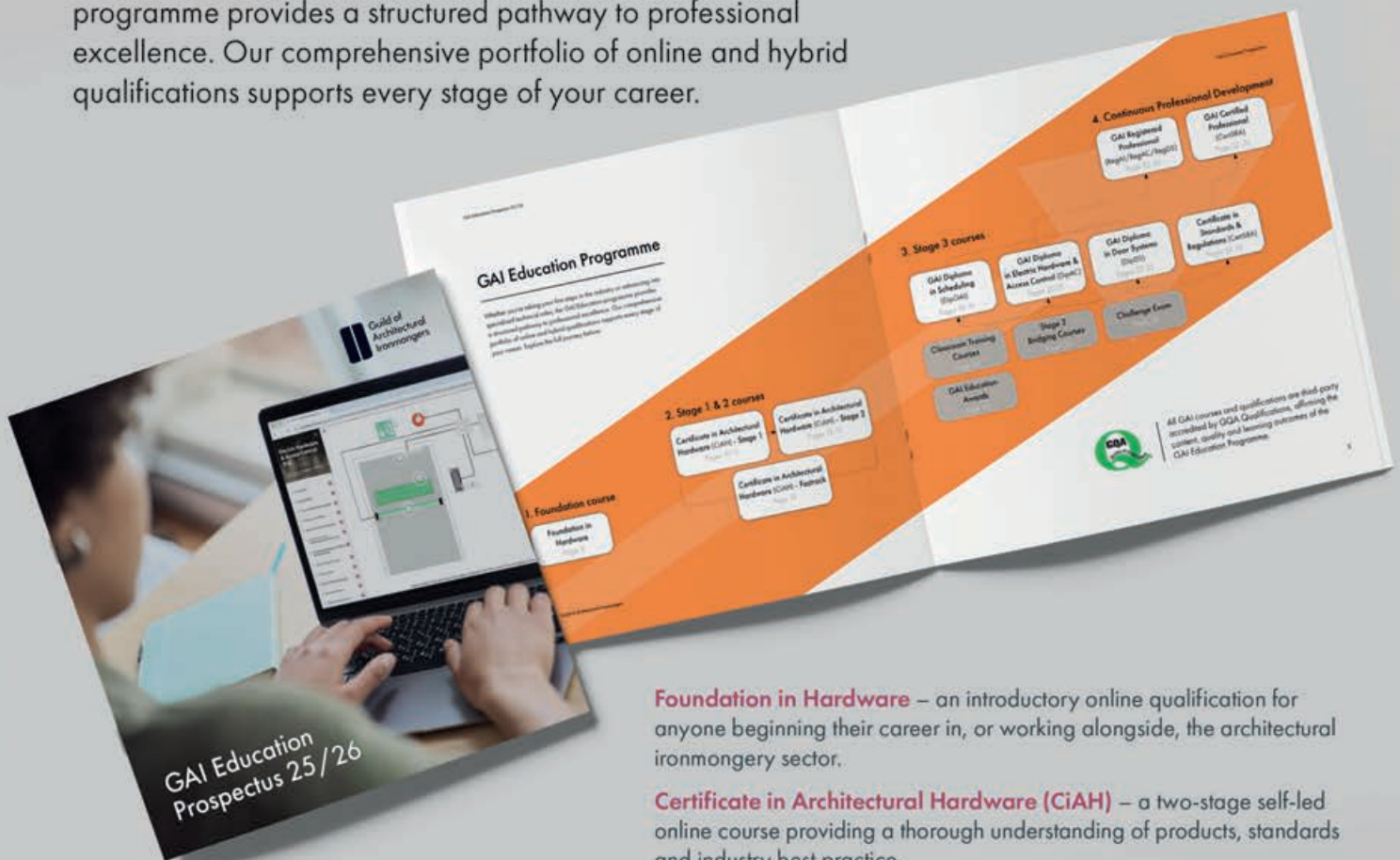
BELOW: Dorsey's designs



2025/26

# GAI Education Programme

Whether you're taking your first steps in the industry or advancing into specialised technical roles, the GAI Education programme provides a structured pathway to professional excellence. Our comprehensive portfolio of online and hybrid qualifications supports every stage of your career.



GAI Education  
Prospectus 25/26

**Foundation in Hardware** – an introductory online qualification for anyone beginning their career in, or working alongside, the architectural ironmongery sector.

**Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH)** – a two-stage self-led online course providing a thorough understanding of products, standards and industry best practice.

**GAI Diploma in Scheduling (DipGAI)** – the qualification for professionals involved in architectural ironmongery scheduling, estimating and technical support.

**GAI Diploma in Door Systems (DipDS)** – educating on all aspects of the architectural ironmongery industry with emphasis on the door.

**GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control (DipAC)** – designed to educate on all areas of the access control market and its impact on the architectural ironmongery industry.

**GAI Certificate in Standards & Regulations (CertSRA)** – an ongoing training programme to educate on all of the standards relevant to the architectural ironmongery industry.

Download your copy of the new prospectus at [www.gai.org.uk](http://www.gai.org.uk)



## **CRES** | CORROSION RESISTANT (STAINLESS) STEEL

This highly durable material, with its exceptional resistance to rust, corrosion and wear is the ideal choice for a range of door hardware that can withstand the test of time.

Our new collection, crafted with 316g stainless steel and PVD finishes, brings you the strength of CRES in elegant, modern designs. It's perfect for anyone seeking both style and long-lasting performance.



**FRELAN**  
HARDWARE



## **GHOST** CONCEALED HINGES

Our new collection of fire rated concealed hinges will help you to achieve a minimalist look for your project. Two sizes, up to 6 finishes, made from either zinc or stainless steel. These durable and subtle hinges are the ultimate in understated practicality.

For more information on all Frelan offerings, please visit our website:

[www.frelanhardware.co.uk](http://www.frelanhardware.co.uk)

