



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSE BUILDING INDUSTRY FOCUS ON HEALTH & SAFETY

Scotland's house building industry has demonstrated its commitment to health safety with the launch of a new charter.

Homes for Scotland, the organisation representing companies building 95% of the country's new homes, the Scottish House Builders Health & Safety Forum and the Health & Safety Executive have all joined forces in order to raise awareness of health and safety issues throughout a sector that directly employs over 50,000 people.

Bruce Black, Executive Director of Homes for Scotland, said: "Health and safety is an extremely important area which the house building industry takes very seriously. As well as the obvious benefits to staff, the Health & Safety Executive estimates that nationally the value of time lost to accidents and work-related illness amounts to 8.5% of construction costs so any initiative to reduce this is most welcome."

The charter's launch comes as the Health & Safety Executive promotes "Backs! 2005" to encourage the use of lifting and handling aids, as part of its "Better Backs" campaign.

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