

Ageing and Physical Workloads

Skills shortage

Physical demands

Changing workplace

Equipment design

Health Considerations of Older Construction Workers

Alistair Gibb, Joanna Leaviss & Phil Bust

Loughborough University, Department of Civil and Building Engineering

The Investigation

Background

- Construction work is arduous and physically challenging
- Ageing can be accelerated by physical demands such as manual handling of excessive loads, exposure to vibration and noise, and atypical working hours
- Many workers leave the industry through ill health, creating a skills shortage.



Source: Loughborough University

Source: Leicestershire County Council

Source: Peter Court, Loughborough EngD

Objectives

- To understand the needs and abilities of older workers
- To investigate equipment design to see how new and existing equipment addresses the needs of older workers
- To catalogue equipment and techniques that reduce workload
- To explore the barriers to using available equipment.

Plan

- Samples: 300 older construction workers (40 years + with 5 years or more experience); health and safety managers; equipment designers
- Methods: Semi-structured interviews and structured questionnaires (older workers)
- Focus groups (health and safety managers and equipment designers).

Collaborators

Peninsula Technikon, South Africa
University of Verona, Italy

References

- Zwart, B.C. de, Frings-Dresen, M.H. & Duivenbooden, J.C. van (1999). *Senior workers in the Dutch construction industry: a search for age-related work and health issues*.
- Deacon, C., Smallwood, J., Haupt, T. (2004). The health and well-being of older construction workers. In *Assessment and Promotion of Work Ability, Health and Well-being of Older Workers*. ISBN 0 444519 890

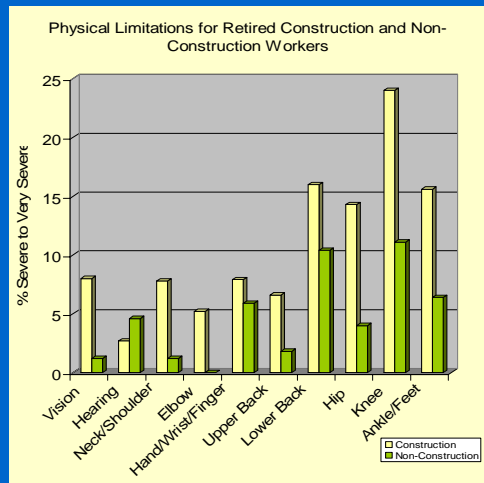
Potential Benefits

For older people

- To prolong older workers' active involvement in the construction industry
- To create a better and more comfortable work environment through use of appropriately designed equipment
- To reduce the risk of injury and health problems during work careers
- To increase potential for an active healthy life after retirement.

For Society

- To reduce workplace accidents, injury and ill-health
- To secure a safer future for the next generation of construction workers.



Source: LeMasters & Cinn



Contact Details

Principal Investigator
Professor Alistair Gibb
A.G.Gibb@lboro.ac.uk

Researchers
Joanna Leaviss
J.C.Leaviss@lboro.ac.uk
Phil Bust
P.D.Bust@lboro.ac.uk



P.D.Bust@lboro.ac.uk
Department of Civil and Building Engineering
Loughborough University
Loughborough
LE11 3TU
+44 (0) 1509 228548