HAZards in CONstruction (HAZCON)

The ABB HAZCON process is a systematic and formal method of identifying and assessing the risks which may be present during construction, maintenance, modification and demolition of an asset.

Our approach
HAZCON methodology
The ABB HAZCON process is a systematic and formal method of identifying and assessing the risks which may be present during construction, maintenance modification and demolition of an asset. In providing a proven process for identification of risk and the necessary actions for risk mitigation, it helps with the following important steps:

- Production of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) management plans
- Consideration of OHS at the layout and detailed design stages
- Identification of key personnel that can influence the OHS of a project

The ABB methodology adopts a two stage approach, for a significant project. The HAZCON 1 study should be carried out as early as possible in the project life cycle and be completed before significant detail design or remediation programme commences, or indeed any of the site contracts are let to third party suppliers. HAZCON 2 study should take place before any significant site work commences and should include all relevant parties who can influence OHS on the project.

HAZCON implementation
To be effective, the HAZCON studies need to be attended by those who can make a significant OHS input to the project specification. Normally this would include the project manager, project engineer, the client, the client’s OHS specialist, CDM coordinator, construction manager and construction OHS specialist. Ideally the study should be chaired by an experienced HAZCON leader who will facilitate the meeting, record the findings of the study and agree action / ownership with appropriate timescales where identified actions need to be addressed.
As a proven methodology, the HAZCON study is a robust questionnaire based approach adapted for practical implementation and based on our in-depth experience for these particular elements of the project lifecycle.

A skilled HAZCON leader will invariably introduce the questions and stimulate discussion concerning potential hazards, risks and controls. This will assist those responsible for project delivery to minimise the construction or demolition / remediation risks.

To be effective overall, the HAZCON study actions need to be implemented within agreed timescales and should be seen as an integral part of the overall project Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) management procedures, plans and action tracking processes.

Benefits
- Improved health and safety of workers
- Reductions in overall costs of ownership of asset
- Reduced delays
- More reliable costs and programmes
- Improved communications and cooperation between key parties
- Improved quality of finished product
- Compliance with CDM design requirements

Why ABB?
- The ABB process has been developed and successfully used over a period of many years
- ABB have experienced HAZCON leaders who can help clients effectively use the process
- ABB can provide training on the implementation of the process
- ABB are able to suggest potential solutions to issues raised
- ABB can help identify where hidden costs maybe waiting