Most safety conscious companies have done a great deal in striving to improve the behaviour of everyone on their operating sites, but despite this, injuries still happen.

Managers become perplexed, especially given all the efforts put into, for example, safety systems, auditing, behavioural safety programmes and training. Some become exasperated, particularly because many incidents and injuries occur due to lack of care and attention by those injured or involved.

Is it really possible to improve safety performance beyond a certain level or is it just that these ‘lack of care and attention injuries’ are inevitable? These incidents often appear to be random. Therefore, appreciating hazards, focussing learning, transferring good practice and understanding the underlying causes of non-compliance in order to determine appropriate corrective action is key. Turning this into practice is also a major challenge.

**What we offer**

ABB’s independent safety assessment is geared to helping with this, at both operational and corporate level. The assessment is an integral part of ABB’s B-SHARP™ approach for helping clients achieve safety performance improvement in an effective and sustainable way. It is founded on ABB’s:

- Experience of managing and implementing major culture change projects
- People and organisational change capability
- Knowledge of safety management processes and ways of working that effectively deliver performance

The safety assessment process, which compliments safety climate surveys, includes a programme of operating site visits. Each visit is typically for about one week, for a production unit with an organisation of up to 500 personnel, concluding with a feedback workshop to begin the process of implementation. ABB’s assessment team comprises a unique combination of both operations improvement and safety specialists. The ABB team facilitates and manages the assessment process; providing an independent input and recommendations for tackling the observed safety issues.
At the end of each site visit, local operating management are advised on the:

- Pertinent human and organisational factors that lie behind the safe and at risk practices and behaviour observed
- Underlying issues for focus of management on safety improvement efforts

Recommendations made are associated with each operating unit and bear in mind the cultural and geographical differences each may possess. The workshop is with the business senior team, representatives of other disciplines and levels. Here ABB raises the business team’s understanding of the key findings of potentially broader business-wide significance, and facilitates using this understanding to develop pertinent business-wide safety improvement plans.

**Benefits**

- Provides a ‘reality check’ on safety arrangements
- Highlights any performance gaps in workplace practices and behaviours
- Provides an opportunity for coaching local operations personnel in good safety management practice
- Provides opportunities for immediate improvements in workplace practices and behaviours through its people engagement approach.
- Points the way to making the tools of successful workplace safety management work more effectively
- Offers a full solution from assessment to action implementation

**Why ABB?**

ABB’s strength lies not just in its safety and operations improvement expertise but also in how it supports clients to successfully implement the changes needed to make them a success. Building the capability to sustain compliance across the business is key.

ABB’s approach is built around a set of principles - established and proven through many years of experience in such projects in a wide range of industrial environments. It focuses on a very flexible approach to implementation and an ability to recognise and adapt to the client’s strengths and limitations.

A typical implementation therefore has at its core the transfer of ABB skills into the client team in such a way that the client personnel are able to lead the implementation rather than the external consultant. In short therefore, we do a project with our clients, rather than doing it to them.