



[Thorne & Derrick - Reducing energy consumption of Hazardous Area Zone 1 lighting systems using Abtech APC photocells](#)

Thorne & Derrick, the specialist suppliers of Hazardous Area Electrical Equipment and distributor for Abtech are delighted to be able to provide the following guest blog by Gareth Bruce, Marketing Manager at Abtech UK Ltd.

Are you looking for a simple way to reduce energy consumption in existing hazardous area facilities, or on existing [\(Read More\)](#)

hazardous area sites?

Abtech's APC photocell has been developed to provide facility managers with a method of controlling the switching of light fittings in hazardous areas.

"The system works by turning off non-essential hazardous area lighting automatically when a desired lux level is reached" explains Gareth.

He continues "As the plant luminaires are only operating when light levels drop below a specified minimum, site energy consumption and overall plant running costs are reduced - a double hit in terms of pro-actively managing your maintenance budget and improving your green credentials!"

Designed to act both as a junction box and lighting controller, the Abtech APC hazardous area photocell can be installed without the need for major rewiring of existing circuits, thus providing a cost effective alternative to complex digital control systems.

“In terms of functionality, we have set the standard switching level at 70 lux, with an on/off ratio of 1:1. There is also a built in delay of 25 seconds to prevent nuisance switching should a bird or animal briefly obscure the sensor. Other lighting levels can be specified on request”.

At the heart of its design is Abtech’s proven BPG (glass reinforced polyester) enclosure range. “Our BPG range is moulded from sheets rather than short fibre lengths, the result being an enclosure with much greater mechanical strength compared to traditional DMC produced boxes” explains Gareth.

“We also carbon load the material to give greater anti-static properties. This, along with its labyrinth seal system, results in a better performing hazardous area enclosure with superior ingress and UV protection, all benefits you would want from a product that is, by its nature, permanently exposed to harsh environmental conditions”.

As the Abtech photocell unit operates independently, it is compatible with any manufacturer’s luminaire. Abtech APC is both ATEX and IECEx compliant and available for Zone 1 and Zone 2 hazardous area applications.

Abtech Limited designs and manufactures a range of electrical connection solutions for hazardous areas including enclosures, control stations, cable glands and lighting.

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.cablejoints.co.uk/blog/article/abtech-apc-photocell>