



Canadian Blood Services  
Société canadienne du sang

1800 Alta Vista Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1G 4J5  
T 613.739.2300 F 613.731.1411  
www.blood.ca www.sang.ca

## Important Information Regarding ISBT 128 Implementation

### Customer Letter #2009-13

2009-05-14

Dear Colleague:

This letter pertains to:

### Details about the ISBT 128 Labelling Standard Implementation at Canadian Blood Services

#### At a Glance:

- What?** Canadian Blood Services has received all necessary approvals to proceed with the implementation of the ISBT 128 labelling standard on May 31, 2009.
- When?** Beginning June 1, 2009, all donations collected on or after this date will be labelled using the ISBT 128 labelling standard.
- Who?** Hospital and transfusion services staff.
- Why?** ISBT 128 is an international standard for the labelling of blood components with the objective of achieving international consistency in the information provided on component end labels and the placement of such information.
- Action!** Readiness activities are completed and updates made to computer systems.

#### Full Story:

Canadian Blood Services is pleased to announce that we are proceeding with the new ISBT 128 labelling standard implementation. Beginning June 1, 2009 all donations collected on or after this date will be labelled using the ISBT 128 labelling standard.

This Customer Letter will provide reminders about activities that hospital customers will need to complete in order to prepare for the upcoming ISBT 128 implementation, as well as other key points to remember when the changes take effect on **June 1**.

Share your vitality

Partagez votre vitalité

### Dual Inventory

As discussed in Customer Letter 2009-08, hospitals are reminded that their Laboratory Information System (once ISBT 128 ready) will need to be able to receive components labelled with the Codabar label as well as the ISBT 128 label.

Since some Codabar labelled components will not expire for some time after the implementation of ISBT 128 (e.g. 12 months for frozen plasma, 10 years for frozen/deglycerolized red blood cells), hospital systems will need to be able to manage the dual inventory for an extended period.

### Computer System Updates Required for Extended ISBT 128 Label

When ISBT 128 is implemented, Canadian Blood Services will label components using an extended ISBT label. The intent of the extended label is to provide hospitals sufficient bar code information in Codabar format as an interim measure while hospitals finalize information system upgrades and implementations enabling them to benefit from the use of the ISBT 128 label.

All hospitals that will be taking advantage of the extended ISBT 128 component label, **must update their computer systems by May 29, 2009** to reflect Canadian Blood Services' new Codabar product codes.

The Codabar product code that will appear on the extended portion of the ISBT 128 component label does **not** correspond to the Codabar component codes in use today. The ISBT 128 Product Codes and Label Text are available on [www.transfusionmedicine.ca](http://www.transfusionmedicine.ca) in both MS Word and MS Excel formats.

We remind hospitals of the benefits associated with the implementation of the ISBT 128 standards, including:

- more information available in barcode and eye readable format;
- electronic controls within each barcode; and
- more robust barcode symbology resulting in less scanner misreads.

### Hospitals Without Computer Systems

Hospitals without computer systems must begin using the 13 character ISBT 128 donation number, plus manual check character, at the time that Canadian Blood Services implements ISBT 128. This will ensure traceability of donations from donors to recipients. **The seven digit donation number from the extended portion of the label must not be used.**

### Notification to Canadian Blood Services

When reporting to Canadian Blood Services, hospitals using the ISBT 128 standard (either manual transcription or automated) will need to provide the 13 character ISBT 128 donation number and the manual check character.

Facilities not currently taking advantage of the ISBT 128 information may continue to provide Canadian Blood Services with the same information that they are providing today.

### Preparing Your Facility for Implementation

As facilities prepare for the upcoming ISBT 128 implementation, there are a number of activities that will need to be completed. These activities include registration with ICCBBA (if required), replacement of internal forms/labels, updates to procedures, communication about the ISBT 128 standard and training activities to ensure staff readiness when the changes are introduced on June 1, 2009.

As previously mentioned, facilities taking advantage of the extended ISBT 128 label will also need to update their computer systems with the new ISBT 128 product codes.

Materials to assist you in preparing your site for the upcoming implementation, including a Sample Checklist for ISBT 128 Implementation Readiness, can be found at [www.transfusionmedicine.ca](http://www.transfusionmedicine.ca).

### Customer Support During the Implementation Period

Throughout the implementation period, should you have specific questions or require assistance, please contact your local Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist. The project team will be meeting with the Hospital Liaison Specialists regularly during the implementation period.

Additionally, you may also submit questions to the ISBT 128 project team via email at [ISBT128@blood.ca](mailto:ISBT128@blood.ca).

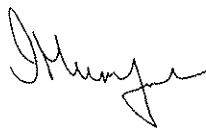
### Further information about ISBT 128

Hospitals wanting additional, more detailed information on ISBT 128 can access the website of The International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation (ICCBBA), Inc. at [www.iccbba.org](http://www.iccbba.org). Computerized facilities should consider registration and/or licensing with ICCBBA.

For information regarding the ISBT 128 implementation at Canadian Blood Services visit the Canadian Blood Services Transfusion Medicine web site at [www.transfusionmedicine.ca](http://www.transfusionmedicine.ca).

If you have any additional questions, please contact your local Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist.

Sincerely,



Ian Mumford  
Chief Operating Officer