

Important Information Regarding ISBT 128 Implementation

Customer Letter #2009-15

2009-06-18

Dear Colleague:

This letter pertains to:

ISBT 128 Labelling Changes at Canadian Blood Services

At a Glance:

- What?** Canadian Blood Service has successfully implemented the ISBT 128 labelling standard. Differences in the placement of other information may occur as a result of the new, larger ISBT 128 component labels.
- When?** Since June 1, 2009 all donations collected on or after this date are being 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.

Full Story:

Canadian Blood Services is pleased to announce that we have successfully implemented the ISBT 128 labelling standard. Effective immediately, you will see the ISBT 128 labelling on all components collected on or after June 1, 2009.

Hospital customers will now realize the some of the benefits resulting from the implementation of the ISBT 128 standard at Canadian Blood Services such as:

- Unique numbering of all blood components - eliminates issue of repeating donation numbers due to the limitations of the donation number sequence.
- Code 128 barcode symbology which is more robust and offers more data control than the old Codabar barcode symbology.

Label Placement Changes

As staff are adjusting to the format of the new, larger ISBT 128 component labels, hospital customers may see some changes. For example, the small Donation Number Label will now be placed at the very bottom of the collection container to allow as much space above the component label as possible. In some instances, it may even appear slightly to the left.

Also, with the larger component labels, there may be insufficient room to affix a RAD-SURE® label to the front of ISBT 128 labelled irradiated components. The RAD-SURE® label is used to confirm that irradiation has occurred for a component. In these cases, Canadian Blood Services will now apply the RAD-SURE® label to the back of the container. Additionally, the ISBT 128 label affixed to the front of the component will also clearly indicate that the component has been irradiated.

Further information about ISBT 128

If you have specific questions about the ISBT 128 implementation at Canadian Blood Services or require assistance, please contact your local Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist.

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.

For general information regarding the ISBT 128 implementation at Canadian Blood Services visit the Canadian Blood Services Transfusion Medicine web site at www.transfusionmedicine.ca. Additionally, you may also submit questions to the ISBT 128 project team via email at ISBT128@blood.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Mumford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian Mumford
Chief Operating Officer