

## ISBT 128 – Frequently Asked Questions

Laboratories - November 2018

**1. What is ISBT 128?**

ISBT 128 is the Information Standard for Blood and Transplant.

**2. Why is the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (Blood Service) implementing ISBT 128?**

The Blood Service is implementing ISBT 128 Labelling Standard in accordance with the National Blood Authority's (NBA) barcode specifications, 'Barcode Specifications for Blood and Blood Products Funded under the National Blood Arrangements.'

<https://www.blood.gov.au/barcoding>

**3. When will the Blood Service be implementing ISBT 128?**

18 November 2018

**4. What is an ISBT 128 transition label?**

An ISBT 128 transition label includes the ISBT 128 barcode information and the current Codabar barcode information to minimise the disruption to the management of blood product inventory during the transition to only using ISBT 128 labels.

**5. What will the transition label look like?**

The ISBT 128 transition label will be larger in size and will have both Codabar and ISBT 128 barcoded information. The label will be in two distinct zones; the upper portion will have the ISBT 128 barcodes and the transition zone in the lower portion will contain the current Codabar barcodes.



**Upper Portion** is the ISBT 128 label containing ISBT 128 barcodes. Barcode information is located in different positions on the new label

**Lower Portion** is the transition zone. Contains current barcode information

**6. Can the location of the ISBT 128 information be changed?**

The ISBT 128 labelling standard provides an internationally recognised label format and limits the amount of customisation which can be made to the label layout. More technical information can be sourced from the ICCBBA website <https://www.iccbba.org/home>

**7. Will the FFP box design change with ISBT 128?**

The FFP box window will be modified to accommodate the larger label size.

**8. Who is ICCBBA?**

The International Council for Commonality in Blood Bank Automation (ICCBBA) is the international standards organisation responsible for management and development of the ISBT 128 standard. ICCBBA is a not for profit, nongovernmental organisation in official relations with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

**9. Can I get all the information I currently receive from the new ISBT 128 transition label?**

The transition zone of the ISBT 128 label will contain the same barcodes as the current Codabar label. Eye readable information will be in the ISBT 128 portion of the transition label.

**10. How long will the Blood Service be using the ISBT 128 transition label?**

There is currently no defined date for the removal of the transition zone but will be in place for at least 2 years.

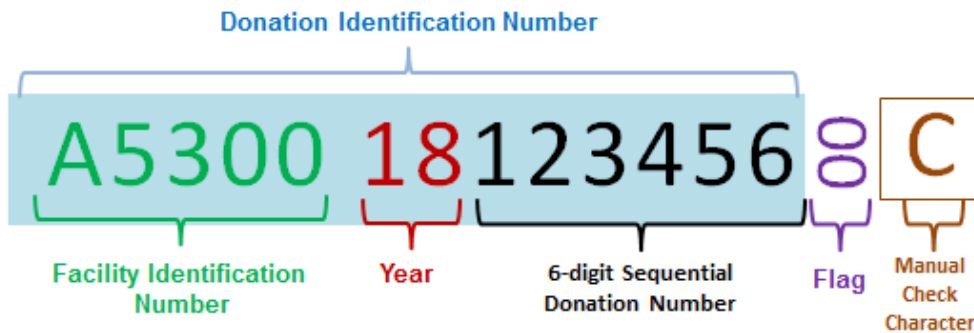
**11. What are the benefits of adopting the ISBT 128 standard?**

There are many benefits to the ISBT 128 standard:

- Provides internationally standardised product codes and definitions for blood components
- Global identifier included in Donation Identification Number (DIN)
- Prevents duplication worldwide of a DIN in 100 years
- Improved barcode symbology

**12. How does the ISBT 128 labelling standard provide a unique identifier for Australian blood components?**

The ISBT 128 unique identifier is made up of a 5 alphanumeric character facility identification number, 2 digit year, 6 digit sequencer, 2 flag characters and a manual check character. This unique identifier will replace the current 7 digit Codabar DIN.



**13. When recording the ISBT 128 DIN, what do I need to record?**

Record the 13 alphanumeric character DIN, which includes the facility identification number, the year, and 6 digit sequencer, as well as the manual check character. The recording of this information will assist the Blood Service to more rapidly and reliably retrieve the information about the relevant component in the event of a product recall or report of an adverse transfusion reaction.

**14. Once the Blood Service moves to ISBT 128 component labelling, will there be a period when I will receive mixed inventory from the Blood Service?**

Yes. As components collected before the ISBT 128 implementation date will not be relabelled, there will be a period during which AHPs may receive a mix of products with the current Codabar label and the new ISBT 128 transition label, noting that some products, such as fresh frozen plasma and cryopreserved rare red cells, have relatively long shelf lives. Those AHPs that are planning to implement the ISBT 128 standard during this period of mixed inventory will need to ensure that they can manage products labelled with the new ISBT 128 transition label, as well as the current Codabar label.

**15. What other changes may impact me?**

Some changes that may require consideration include:

- The ISBT 128 transition label is larger in size
- Barcodes and eye readable information are in different positions so may have an impact on how you store blood products for easy visibility of expiry date and the DIN
- Consideration on how this change will be communicated to staff in your facilities who handle blood components.

**16. What is the impact on issue notes from the Blood Service?**

Blood Service consignment issue notes will show the ISBT 128 DINs for all components collected on or after 18 November 2018. Codabar DINs will only appear on issue notes for blood components collected before this date.

**18. Will there be changes to BloodNet as a result of ISBT 128?**

The National Blood Authority (NBA) is working to ensure that there is minimal disruption to BloodNet as a result of ISBT 128 implementation. BloodNet will display the information as per the issue note generated from the Blood Service. BloodNet will be configured to read both the ISBT 128 and Codabar barcodes when they are scanned.

**19. What is the impact on my Laboratory Information System (LIS)?**

If you are implementing ISBT 128, your system may need to be configured to be able to read the different barcode symbology.

**20. What if my LIS is interfaced with BloodNet?**

The interface between LIS and BloodNet will be able to handle both the current Codabar and ISBT 128 information. This means that the interaction between BloodNet and LIS will be compatible during the transition period. The NBA recommends the interface be tested and verified in the NBA User Acceptance Testing (UAT) environment. Please contact the NBA for more information regarding NBA UAT.

**21. What happens if my system and software cannot manage ISBT 128?**

If your system is not ready for ISBT 128, you can continue to use the Codabar information located on the extended portion of the transition label.

**22. Are there sample labels and barcodes that I can test and who can I contact for more information?**

If you require further information, please email the Blood Service at [ISBT128enquiries@redcrossblood.org.au](mailto:ISBT128enquiries@redcrossblood.org.au)

**23. Where can I get up to date information?**

Information can be found at the following links:

- Information on ISBT 128 transition labels [https://transfusion.com.au/blood\\_products/ISBT\\_128\\_Transition\\_Label](https://transfusion.com.au/blood_products/ISBT_128_Transition_Label)
- Blood Service eLearning module for ISBT 128 implementation <https://learn.transfusion.com.au/course/view.php?id=438>
- Technical Information about ISBT 128 available on the ICCBBA website <https://www.iccbba.org/home>
- NBA 'Barcode Specifications for Blood and Blood Products Funded Under the National Blood Arrangements'. <https://www.blood.gov.au/barcoding>

**24. What will it mean for the labelling of Extended Life Plasma (ELP)?**

There are differences across Health Provider facilities in how ELP labels are applied/printed/recorded.

If a facility applies an ELP label with a new component code applied using an ISBT128 code that facility will need to pay the licensing fee (the software vendor or label vendor will be responsible for this).

If there is a new component code applied for ELP and it is **not** an ISBT 128 code then they will **not** need to pay the licensing fee.

**25. Where can I source information on the license fee?**

The ISBT 128 standard is a copyrighted system that is licensed to authorised users by ICCBBA on the basis of an annual licensing fee. ICCBBA provides three forms of licensing for:

- Vendors;
- Limited use vendors; and
- Facilities.

Details on the licensing fee can be found on the ICCBBA website at

<https://www.iccbba.org/registration-licensing>