Statement of the European Blood Alliance position on the labelling, coding and identification of blood, blood components, tissues and cells

Recognizing

- the importance of a globally unique and generally accepted standard for labelling, coding and identification of blood and blood components as a prerequisite for ensuring safety and effectiveness of international and regional relief operations in major disaster and emergencies[1];
- that the World Health Organization in *Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation* has identified the need for international standardization of labeling, coding and identification[2];
- the European Union requirement for a unique identification code for each donation of tissues and cells as specified in the European Directive 2004/23/EC[3];
- the importance of a consistent approach to coding and labeling of substances of human origin to ensure effective traceability and vigilance of all donated human material;
- the need for a standard that is stable, flexible, and effectively managed to meet the rapidly changing needs of the transfusion and transplantation communities;
- the widespread successful adoption of the ISBT 128 information standard in many countries in Europe and throughout the world[5];
- the international support for the use of ISBT 128 coding and labeling for cellular therapy products[6];
- the ongoing effectiveness of ICCBBA in maintaining and developing the ISBT 128 Standard to the satisfaction of the professional user community;

the European Blood Alliance supports the universal use of the *ISBT 128* for labelling, coding and identification of blood, blood components, tissues and cells.

References

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4. Ashford P, Fearon M, Bedford R. Report on the joint IBEPAG/ICCBBA survey on import/export and blood component labeling. Vox Sang 2010,98:85-6
5. Ashford P et al. Standards for Terminology and Labeling of Cellular Therapy Products. Transfusion 2007:47:1319-27