



## **ISBT 128 Frequently Asked Questions**

**I'm under the impression that since I do not collect or manipulate units in any way, I don't need to use ISBT 128 at this time.**

Although you may not be manufacturing or modifying products, your laboratory information system (LIS) will need to be able to accept ISBT 128 unit numbers, product codes, blood types, expiration dates, and special labels (i.e. CMV-) for your organization to track the products you transfuse.

**How can we go-live with ISBT 128 if FBC has not implemented it yet?**

Florida's Blood Centers will be implementing ISBT 128 toward the end of the first quarter 2009. If your LIS can accept dual symbology (i.e. Codabar and ISBT 128), you do not have to wait for FBC to go live.

Additionally, for any products we import with an ISBT 128 label prior to our implementation, we will attach a hang tag to the unit with a Codabar label. You may choose to receive the product as a Codabar or ISBT, however if you receive the product as ISBT and modify the product you will have to relabel the product with ISBT codes. If you choose to relabel products, you must be registered with ICCBBA and have a label printer that is ISBT compatible.

**What is a condensed ISBT barcode? Am not familiar with standard and condensed versions. Impact???**

Scanners are used to read the data stored in the widths and spacings of the printed lines of Codabar and ISBT 128, which are linear barcode symbologies. When a barcode is condensed, or made smaller to take up less space or fit on a smaller label, the widths and spacings of the barcode change. Therefore, in order to read a condensed label the scanner must be programmed to do so. As your supplier, we do not use condensed barcodes on our labels. However, there is potential for an organization that we import from to use condensed labels.