



## First Announcement

### ISBT 128 European Tissue Technical Advisory Group

Several European Member States (MS) have either already implemented *ISBT 128* for tissue coding, or are in the process of doing so, and others are planning implementation in the near future. In order to ensure a common adoption of *ISBT 128* in European countries, and to provide a forum for sharing of experiences and expertise, ICCBBA is establishing a European Tissue Technical Advisory Group (ETTAG).

The remit of ETTAG will be determined at the first meeting, but will broadly be to:

- develop a consensus on the detailed implementation of *ISBT 128* in MS, and produce a European Consensus Document for the use of *ISBT 128* on Tissues;
- provide a focus for standardization of tissue terminology and product naming;
- provide advice and support to facilities introducing the *ISBT 128* Standard;
- liaise with the European Commission on coding and labeling issues;
- liaise with other Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) of ICCBBA, in particular the North American Tissue TAG;
- generate, review and comment upon proposed changes to the *ISBT 128* Information Standard and supporting documents;
- advise on the ongoing development of the *ISBT 128* standard to support new developments in tissue banking;
- prepare educational material and tools to support the implementation of *ISBT 128* in Europe;
- promote the adoption of the *ISBT 128* standard in tissue banking in Europe and globally.

Every MS that has tissue facilities licensed with ICCBBA will be eligible to appoint one member to the ETTAG. In addition we encourage the participation of liaisons from regulatory authorities and professional bodies. Observers from relevant supplier organizations and from other MS will also be welcome to attend.

The first meeting of this new ETTAG will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November in Cracow, Poland. The time is yet to be confirmed.

If you are interested in participating in this new body as a member, liaison or observer you will need to complete a meeting registration form. There will be no charge for attendance. Please send your e-mail contact details to the ICCBBA office ([wendy.becerra@iccbba.org](mailto:wendy.becerra@iccbba.org)) referencing your interest in the ETTAG meeting in Cracow as soon as possible. Please submit the registration form Wendy will provide no later than September 26, 2009.

If you know of other individuals who may be interested, please forward this announcement to them.