SELECTING AN *ISBT 128* PRODUCT CODE

Selecting an appropriate *ISBT 128* product code can be a daunting task because of the 8,000 plus product description codes to choose from. Using tools available through the ICCBBA website and gaining an understanding of how these codes are constructed help make choosing a product code a simple process. As you read through this document it is important to recognize that there is a difference between the terms product description code and product code. The product description code is a 5-character code that describes a particular product. The product code, an 8-character code which includes the 5-digit code, gives information about the donation type and whether or not the product is divided.

When beginning to look for a product description code one must decide what type of code is needed. Product description codes fall into three main categories; blood, cellular therapy, and tissues. The blood product description codes begin with the letter E or F, Cellular Therapy begins with S, and Tissues begin with T. Codes that begin with A through D are reserved for local or national use. Product description codes are defined based upon three concepts:

1) Classes- broad descriptions of products (e.g., RED BLOOD CELLS, PLATELETS)

2) Modifiers- Are applied to the classes to further specify the product (e.g., Washed, Frozen)

3) Attributes- are more specific and help to explicitly define a product (e.g., Irradiated, Plasma Reduced)

    a. For Blood and Cellular Therapy products, “Core conditions” are a type of attribute that specifies the:

        a. Anticoagulant

        b. Volume

        c. Storage temperature

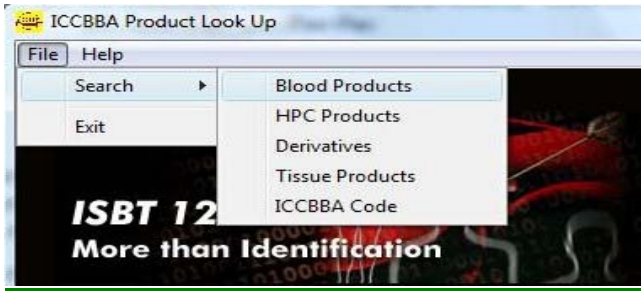
    b. Tissue products do not have core conditions

The *Standard Terminology for Blood, Cellular Therapy, and Tissue Product Descriptions* document on the ICCBBA website contains the formal definitions and explanations of all the classes, modifiers, and attributes used to construct product description codes.

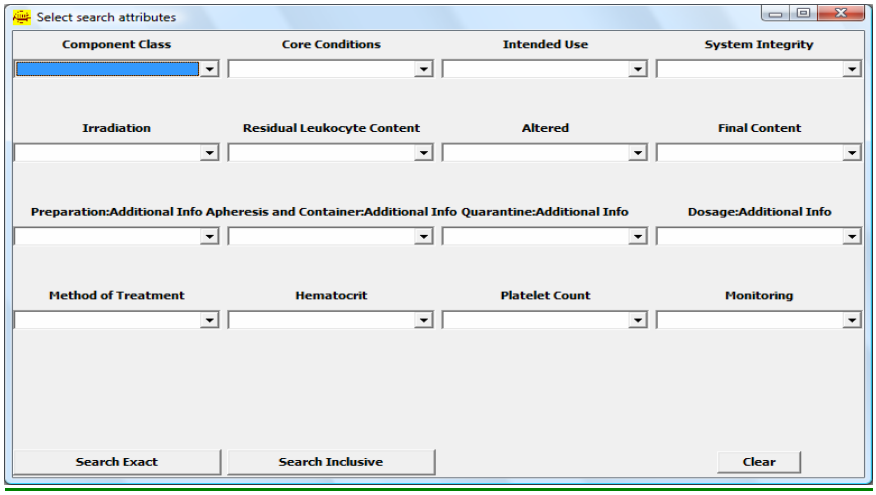
To ease the selection process there is a Product Lookup Program Version 3. It can be found in the registered users section of the ICCBBA website under the same name. This program allows you to search for product description codes within the product code database by selecting pertinent classes, modifiers, and attributes from drop down menus.

There are three Product Code Text files used to populate the lookup program, these three text files contain the information from the main database. When you download and save the Product Lookup Program, also save these three Product Code Text files to the same location. Keep in mind that each time ICCBBA updates the product code database with new codes, these text files are updated as well. It is necessary to re-save these text files to the look up program on your computer as well. This will ensure that the program can return the most current search results. E-mail alerts are sent out to users who have subscribed to the update service each time the Product Code Database is updated.

When you open the Lookup Program, click File → Search →Blood Products.

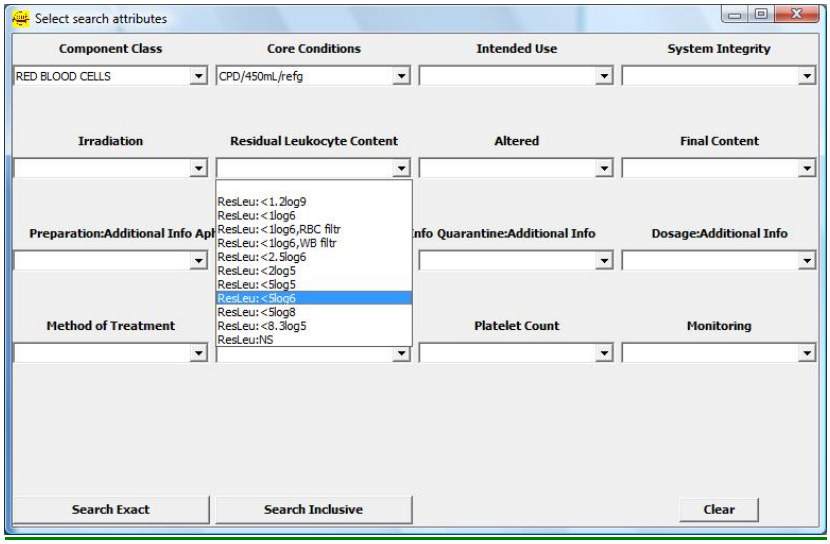


A new window will appear with a series of drop down menus. The "component class" menu contains the modifiers and class combinations; the other menus contain the various attribute groups.

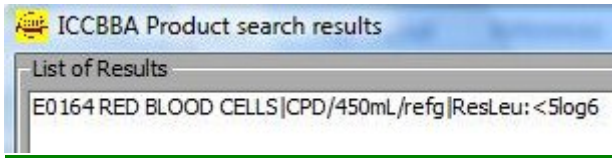


For example, search:

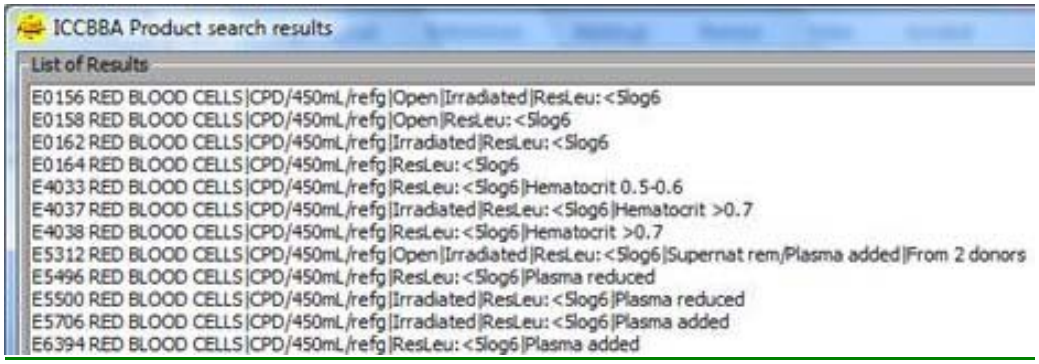
- **Component Class:** Red Blood Cells
- **Core Conditions:** CPD/450ml/ refg
- **Residual Leukocyte Content:** ResLeu< 5log 6.



When finished making selections click the “Search Exact” or “Search Inclusive” buttons at the bottom of the search window and see which product results fit within the search criteria.

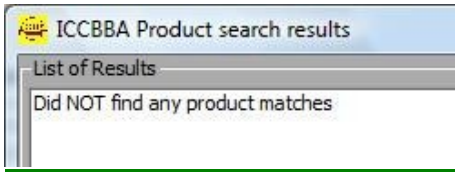


“**Search Exact” Results**



“**Search Inclusive” Results**

If a search results in the message “Did NOT find any product matches”, this means the particular product you searched for is not currently defined within the database. At this point double-check that you have saved the most current text files to the lookup program and see if the intended class, modifiers, and attributes were entered correctly. If the search criteria are correct and the tables are current, you may wish to complete a Product Code Request form and submit it to ICCBBA. If the request is approved, the new product description will be assigned a code and added to the product code database.



"In Process" products, like first stage cryoprecipitate, should be labeled with local codes; A0000 through D9999 have been reserved for this purpose. These codes are defined and maintained by the facility that assigned them. ICCBBA does not keep record of local codes.

The meaning of the 6th, 7th, and 8th characters varies depending on the type of product.

For blood and cellular therapy products:

The 6th character position of the product code encodes the donation type. Characters are assigned using a pre-determined set of values. These values are located in Table RT008 of the *ISBT 128 Standard Technical Specification*.

Divided products are differentiated by division codes. Unlike Codabar, *ISBT 128* does not require a separate product description code for each division. For divisions the 5-digit product description code remains the same and the 7th and 8th characters of the product code, which comprise the division code, change. These characters change from 00 to A0, B0, C0, etc as necessary.

For example, if you have product E0164V00 and you perform a single first level division resulting aliquots will be E0164V**A0** and E0164V**B0**. If you further divide product E0164VB0 into three aliquots, the resulting second level products will be: E0164V**B0**, E0164V**Ba**, and E0164V**Bb**. Third level subdivisions (and beyond) are not encoded by *ISBT 128*.

The labeling convention for divisions does not indicate the volumes of the divided products. That is, A0 may have a different volume than B0. The division code also does not denote which divided product is the primary collection. Nor does the labeling convention specify that any divided product must be further divided or used in any particular order.

For tissue products:

For tissue products there are often a greater number of divisions possible; the 6th, 7th, and 8th characters of the product code encode the division information. For example look at product T0053 Freeze Dried CANCELLOUS BONE CHIPS|Pack|ETO. The undivided product code would be T0053000. The same product with four divisions would appear as T0053**001**, T0053**002**, T0053**003**, and T0053**004.** This allows up to 999 divisions.

Using the Product Lookup Program, coupled with the information provided, will make searching for a product description code a relatively simple and efficient process. This will in turn make it easier to assign the full product code.