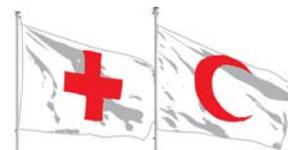


Global Advisory Panel (GAP) on
Corporate Governance and Risk Management of Blood Services
in Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



15 October 2013

Executive Director
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Dear Mr Ashford

I am writing to you as a follow-up to our letter of 19th June, 2013 advising that the Executive Board of the Global Advisory Panel (GAP) on Corporate Governance and Risk Management of Blood Services in Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies would formally consider provision of its endorsement of the use of ISBT128 as a global standard for identification and coding of blood and blood products.

Due consideration was given by the GAP Executive Board to ICCBBA's request as per your correspondence dated 10th June 2013, and this is to advise the Executive Board endorses the use of ISBT 128 product coding as a risk mitigation strategy to reduce the incidence of labelling-related transfusion errors. Through GAP's advisory role and engagement with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society Blood Services, we will, where appropriate, promote the use of ISBT 128 as a means to minimize risk in the blood collection, processing, testing and transfusion setting. We would also plan to include reference to labelling risk and the minimisation of this through adoption of ISBT 128 in the next update of the GAP manual "Developing Safe and Sustainable Blood Programmes",

If you have any peer reviewed materials or guidance documents available that you would be happy for GAP to potentially include as a reference or information source for Blood Services to refer to, in its next revision of the GAP manual we would be interested to receive these.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Wsolak, from the GAP Secretariat as above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philippe', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Philippe Vandekerckhove
GAP President
(CEO, Belgian Red Cross Blood Service, Flanders)