Decoding Complexity: A Systematic Approach to Standardized Tissue Terminology and Labeling

[1]Alex Garlets, [1]Robin White

[1]ICCBBA, San Bernardino, CA, United States

Background: ICCBBA, an international non-profit organization, develops and maintains the ISBT 128 Standard for globally harmonized terminology, identification, coding, labeling, and data exchange for medical products of human origin (MPHO) through collaborative efforts involving stakeholders and experts in various MPHO fields. This includes standardized tissue and ocular tissue terminology, which is used to build ISBT 128 product description codes (PDCs).

Methods: Authors evaluated ICCBBA's new terminology request and publication process and consulted the ISBT 128 PDC Database to gather information on tissue-related PDCs.

Results: Consisting of stakeholders and experts in the tissue field, ICCBBA's Tissue Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) and Eye Bank Technical Advisory Group (EBTAG) aid in the establishment of a common frame of reference for tissue and ocular tissue terminology. Standardization is achieved through structured meetings, an asynchronous discussion and decision portal, and email correspondence. When ISBT 128 users submit new terminology requests, the TAGs provide knowledge on the appropriate application of requested terms, and if approved, ICCBBA publishes the updated terminology in *ISBT 128 Standard Terminology for Medical Products of Human Origin* (ST-002). (See Figure A.)

The first tissue PDCs were published in February 2001. As of April 2026, 222 non-ocular tissue classes are spread across six bounded lists and definition categories within ST-002. These categories are: cardio/vascular, soft tissue, bone and cartilage, skin, other tissues, and bone/soft tissue. 1,836 active tissue PDCs exist across the 222 tissue classes. Additionally, 469 ocular tissue PDCs exist across six ocular tissue classes.

Conclusion: The ISBT 128 Standard is developed and maintained by ICCBBA through collaboration with stakeholders and experts in the field. The ISBT 128 PDC Database contains numerous tissue-related PDCs, built from standardized terminology. Creating a common frame of reference enables global harmonization in the terminology used to describe tissue and ocular tissue products labeled using the ISBT 128 Standard. (See Figure B.)

Keywords: ICCBBA, ISBT 128, terminology, labeling

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Corresponding Author: Alex C. Garlets

References: ICCBBA. *ISBT 128 Standard Terminology for Medical Products of Human Origin* (ST-002). 2026. www.iccbba.org/standard-terminology

Figure A: Standard Terminology Updates Publication Process

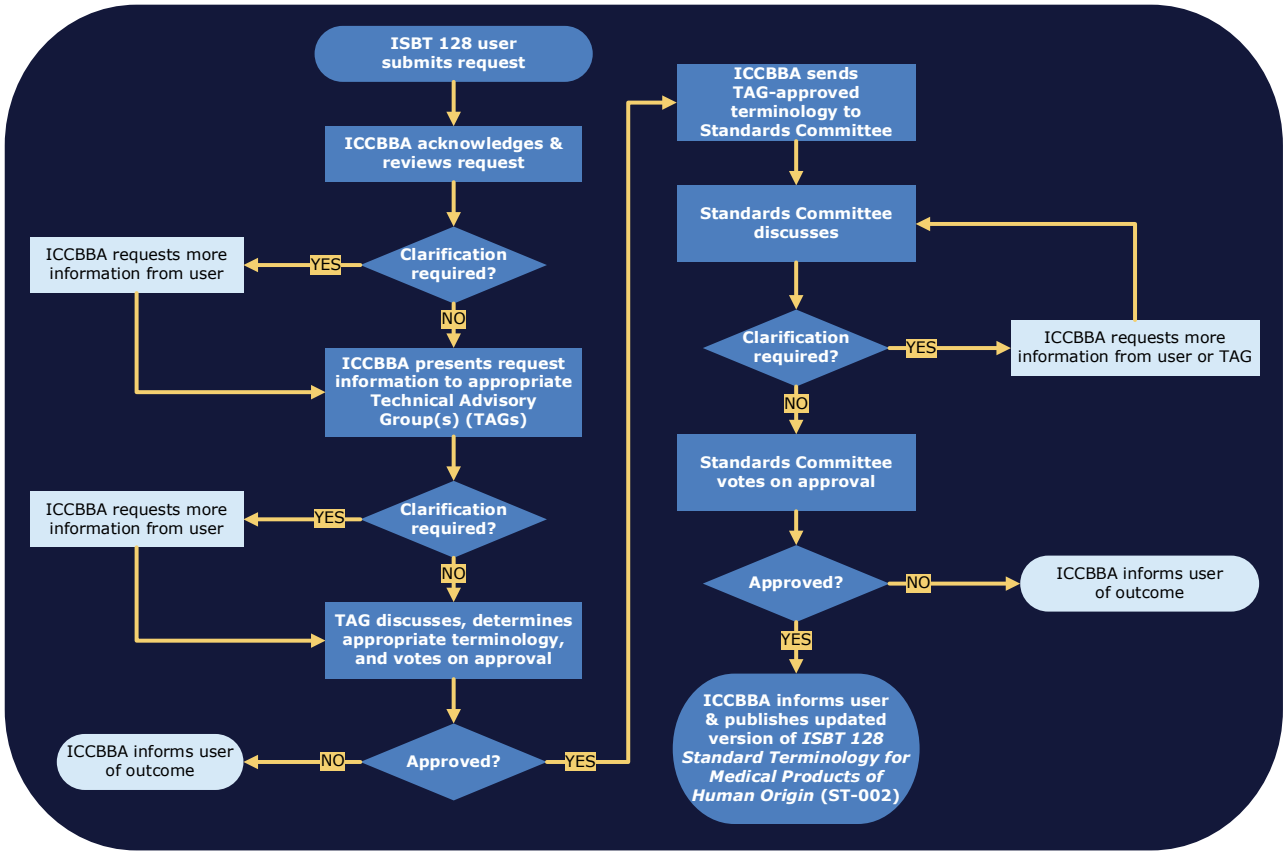
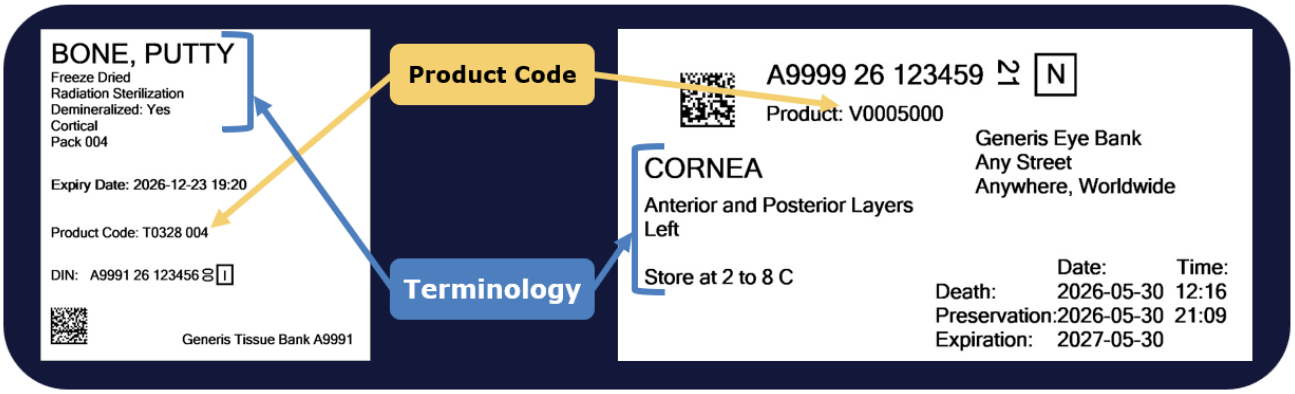


Figure B: Tissue and Ocular Terminology Presented on ISBT 128 Labels



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Figure A

Standard Terminology Updates Publication Process

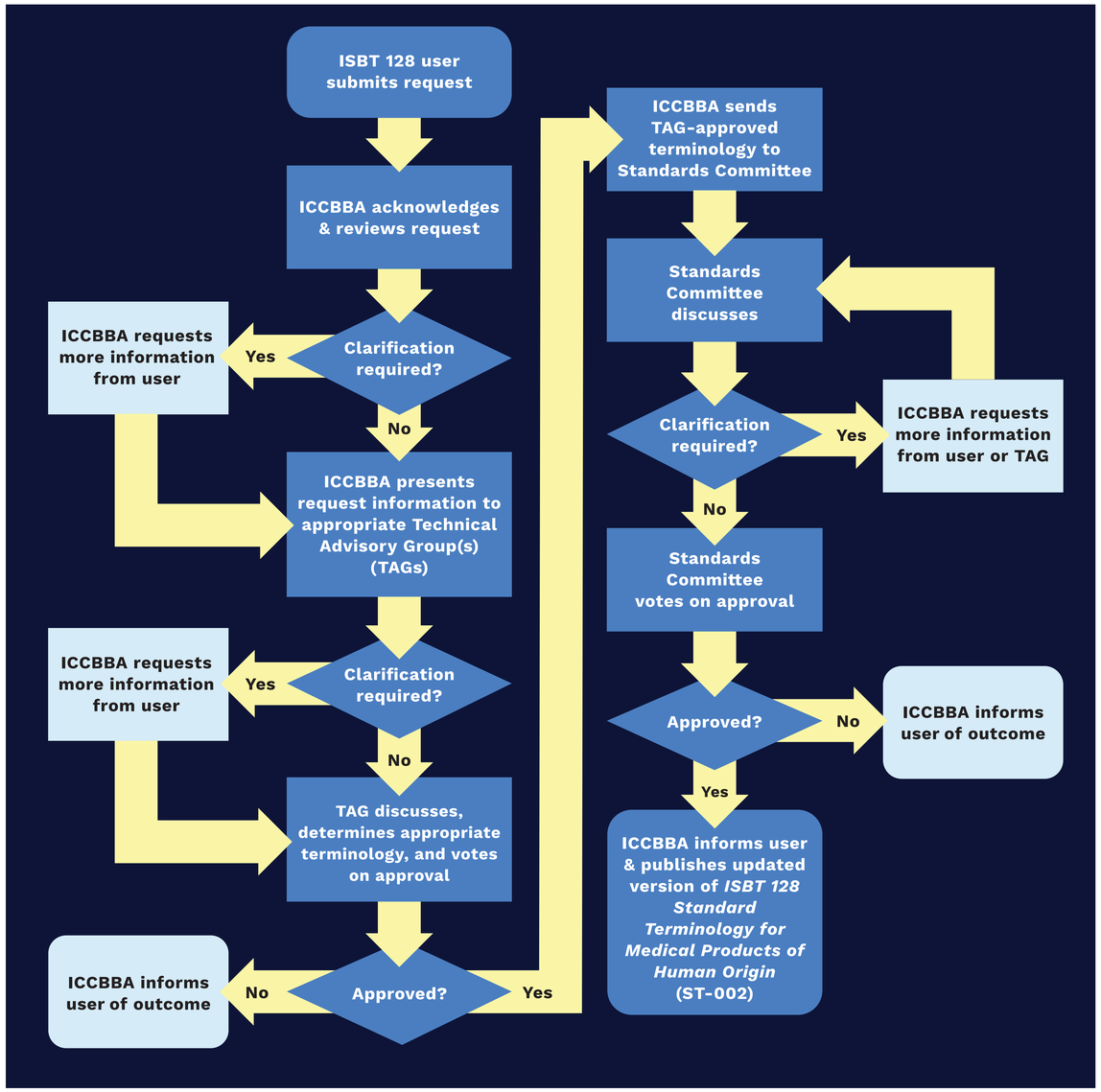
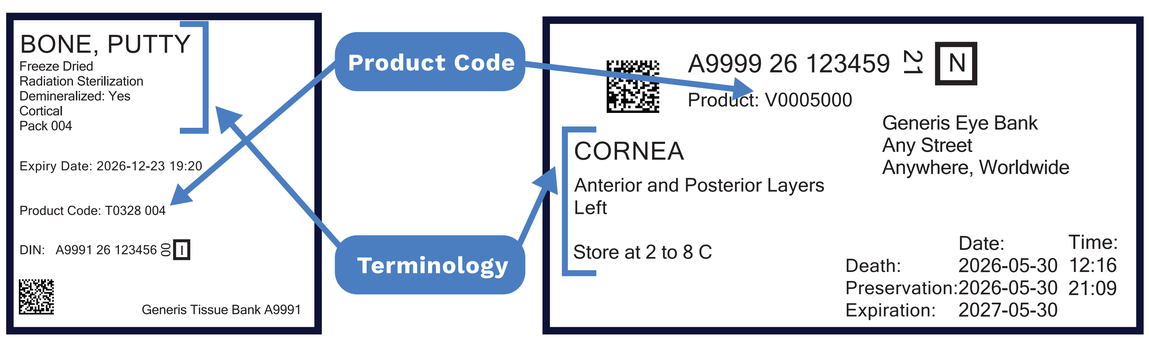


Figure B

Tissue and Ocular Terminology Presented on ISBT 128 Labels



Keywords: ICCBBA, ISBT 128, terminology, labeling
Disclosures: None
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ISBT 128 Standard for Traceability