

Slayten, Jayanna K

From: Hospital Support <hospitalsupport@hospitalsupport.redcross.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Slayten, Jayanna K
Subject: Important information regarding Red Cross change in AS-1 Blood Collection sets

Categories: Orange Category

Important information regarding Red Cross change in AS-1 Blood Collection sets

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American Red Cross

As part of the American Red Cross's ongoing effort to contain costs and improve supplier stability, we are transitioning to a new whole blood collection set from which much of our red blood cell and plasma products are made. The Fresenius Kabi Bioflex® RC Blood-Pack® Unit allows for a standard design that enhances production capabilities and contingency planning with our supplier. Further, the new set is constructed using fewer DEHP components.

In preparation of this change, the Red Cross is conducting an operational trial starting in November 2022. System wide implementation is scheduled to begin in February 2023 and continue through September. Limited quantities of plasma, single unit cryo and red blood cells will be produced in the Bioflex bags between November and February. As such, your hospital may receive both the current Bioflex and new Bioflex RC bags until February of 2023.

Please note, the anti-coagulant for the new Bioflex RC set remains AS-1 and the product codes are unchanged. Products made with CPDA-1 or AS-3 are unaffected by this modification. There are minor design changes in the ports that are detailed

below. Usability feedback from several hospitals have confirmed the ease of use of the new bags.

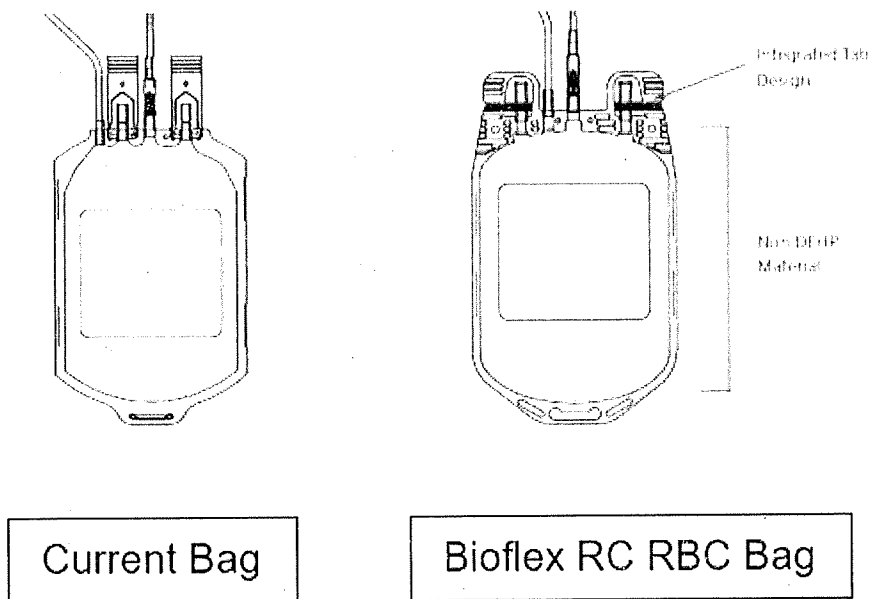
Bioflex® RC Blood-Pack® Unit / AS-1 Design Changes:

In the new design the port tabs are integrated into the container design to allow for:

- easy opening while wearing gloves
- even tear across the seam
- broad exposure to the opening for ease in spiking

The bag dimensions remain the same.

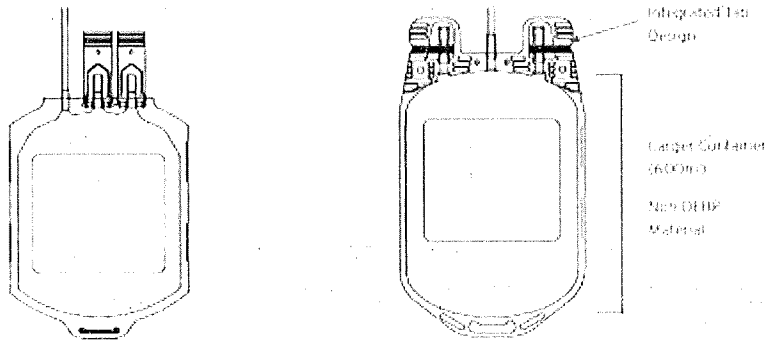
Red Blood Cell (RBC) Storage Container



Satellite Storage Container, used for all plasma products and single cryo also features the integrated port tabs and a larger bag size.

The satellite bag has been standardized to a common container size and a new plasma storage box will also be used to accommodate this larger bag. The box dimensions are: 8 ¾" L x 5" W x 1 ¼" D. The box also features a die cut window that is 3 ½" W x 3 ½" H on the face panel located 2" from the end.

Plasma/Singe Cryo Storage Container



Current Bag

Bioflex RC Plasma Bag

To support your transition to the new Bioflex RC bag and to orient your staff, as well other departments that perform transfusions to the new tab design, we have made the following information available:

[Bioflex RC Change Summary](#)

[Bioflex RC Spiking Technique](#)

[Bioflex RC Spiking Video](#)

As we draw closer to the system wide implementation, we will contact you with more information. Until then, we appreciate your cooperation as we strive to provide blood products that best meet your needs.

If you have questions, please contact your Account Manager.

Thank you,

American Red Cross Biomedical Services

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