



November 25, 2024

In Re: Health Canada's update to the CAN/CSA-Z900.2.2.:22 "Tissues for transplantation" standard to eliminate the requirement for tissue donors to be screened for a history of active or past Ebola virus infection.

To Whom it May Concern:

The American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) writes in appreciation of the October 29, 2024, Health Canada update to the CAN/CSA-Z900.2.2.:22 "Tissues for transplantation" standard to eliminate the requirement for tissue donors to be screened for a history of active or past Ebola virus infection. As noted in the announcement, this will ensure the Health Canada standard is aligned with AATB's 15th edition of Standards, set to take effect on January 31, 2025.

Importantly, the AATB believes that this decision will not compromise the safety of these tissue products but will reduce the administrative burden on tissue banking staff. At this time, due to reduced Ebola transmission and other factors, we believe the risk of Ebola transmission through donor tissue is extremely low. AATB will continue to monitor regulatory actions related to communicable diseases that may affect the safety and availability of tissue products.

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Thank you again for your work on this issue. The AATB looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Health Canada on issues affecting tissue banks and tissue availability.

Respectfully,

Marc Pearce
President & CEO
American Association of Tissue Banks

The American Association of Tissue Banks

The American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) is a professional, non-profit, scientific, and educational organization. AATB is the only national tissue banking organization in the United States, and its membership totals more than 120 accredited tissue banks and over 7,000 individual members. These banks recover tissue from more than 70,000 donors and distribute in excess of 3.3 million allografts for more than 2.5 million tissue transplants performed annually in the US. The overwhelming majority of the human tissue distributed for these transplants comes from AATB-accredited tissue banks.