

# American Embryo Transfer Association

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## Guidelines & Recommendations for Embryo Labeling

### General Considerations:

- Use at least one space between each item of information to facilitate ability to read. **Strongly recommended**
- Use an “E” as the character immediately *preceding* the practitioner’s IETS Freeze Code on the straw labels, cane tops, canes & goblets, in order to eliminate confusion with embryo straw #, donor ID, etc.
- IETS Stage & Grade codes are NOT required, but ARE **Strongly Recommended**.
- Loading one embryo per straw is **Strongly Recommended**, regardless of cryoprotectant. However, it IS allowable to freeze/vitrify more than one embryo per straw when they are not for Direct Transfer (DT).
- Cane tab on top of cane must have a unique cane number & practitioner’s IETS Freeze Code. **REQUIRED**
- Side of cane must have unique cane #, donor’s barn name or number and sire’s common name or stud code.
- Mechanically printed straw, cane &/or goblet labels are **Strongly Recommended**
- Labeling of embryos produced by certified practitioners must follow IETS requirements as a minimum standard.
- The IETS recommendation to put the information on the straw label in 2 lines and in the IETS format should be followed when possible. If this isn’t possible, emphasis should be to include **ALL** the info, rather than on *format*.
- Head of cane or cane tab, top & bottom goblets and straw extension or plug should be the following colors as **REQUIRED** (summarized from IETS Manual, Ch. 9, pg. 91):
  - **Yellow** – Direct Transfer (DT) embryos
  - **White** – NON-Direct Transfer embryos
  - **Light Blue** – Vitrified embryos (the use of this color indicates the method of cryopreservation, & thus, supersedes the use of Yellow, even if the embryo is vitrified for DT, but should be labeled “DT-VIT”).

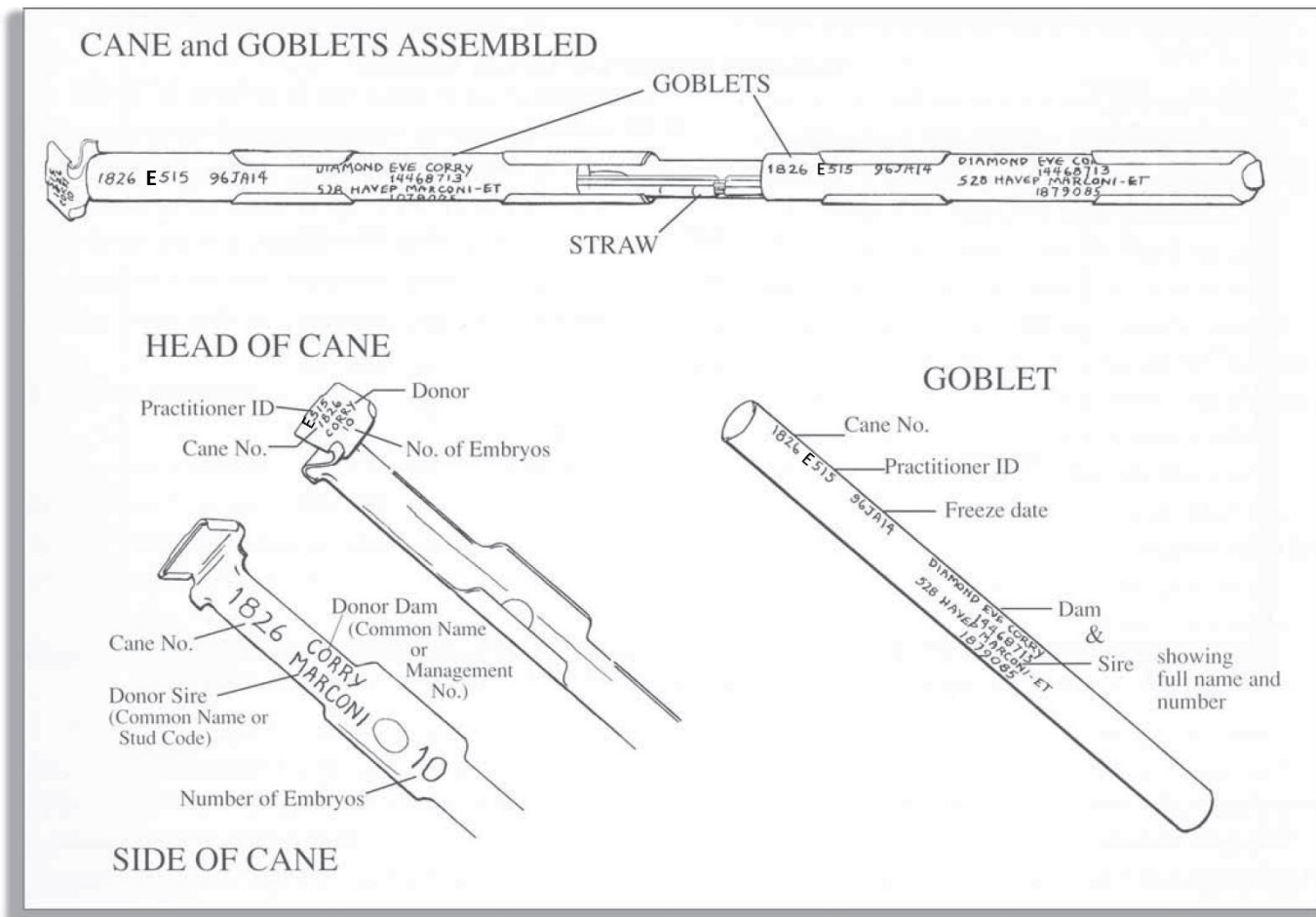


Figure 4. Labeling of canes and goblets

From IETS Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Ch. 9, pg. 94.

**IETS CODES for:**

**STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT**

No.	Stage
1	Unfertilized
2	2- to 12-cell
3	Early Morula
4	Morula
5	Early Blastocyst
6	Blastocyst
7	Expanded Blastocyst
8	Hatched Blastocyst
9	Expanded Hatched Blastocyst

**QUALITY OF EMBRYOS**

Code 1.	Excellent or Good
Code 2.	Fair
Code 3.	Poor
Code 4.	Dead or degenerating
Refer to IETS Manual, Fourth Edition, Chapter 9, for description of codes.	

**MANIPULATION OF EMBRYOS**

N - Not Manipulated	
D - Divided	
F - Female by Biopsy	
M - Male by Biopsy	
U - Sex Undetermined by Biopsy	
Use comment column to describe other biopsies.	

**SEXED SEMEN**

X - Female	Y - Male
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**MONTH**

January	JA
February	FE
March	MR
April	AP
May	MY
June	JN
July	JY
August	AU
September	SE
October	OC
November	NO
December	DE

**STRAW LABELING FORMAT & PROCESSING CODES:**

The color of the straws that are used to load the embryos and adhesive/printed labels are *recommended* to follow the same color format described above for cane tops, goblets & extensions/plugs, however, this is *not required*. Therefore, it is acceptable to use clear straws and clear or white labels for either Direct Transfer (DT) or Vitrified (VIT) embryos.

Straw No.	**Process Code	Practitioner Code	Donor Breed	Donor Reg. No.	Donor Mgt. No./ Barn Name / Tattoo	Sire Breed	Sire Reg. No.	*Sire abbreviated Name/Stud Code
2	DT (5-1)	E515	HO 1 EMB	125796123 07JA14	CORRY	HO	1879085	CLEITUS
*Stage No. *Quality Code		No. Embryo in Straw		YYMMDD Freeze Date				

In practice, 515 HO 125796123 is one unit with only one space between segments as shown in an illustration below.

Identification information can be handwritten or printed directly on the straw or typed on slip of paper rolled so identification shows and inserted into extension of straw, or printed on a 1/4" X 3" gummed label attached to a 0.25 ml straw inserted into a 0.5 ml extension of straw.

2 DT-NT E 515 HO 125796123 CORRY HO 1879085 ( ) • ( )

Showing one embryo on a straw in line 2 is not necessary but when not frozen for direct transfer and the straw contains more than one embryo, the number of embryos in the straw should show on the second line at the location indicated.

\* Optional

\*\*Use Appropriate Processing Code

DT	Direct Transfer in vivo
DT-IVF	Direct Transfer IVF
DTX	Direct Transfer Sexed Semen - Female
DTY	Direct Transfer Sexed Semen - Male
DTX-IVF	Direct Transfer Sexed Semen - Female-IVF
DTY-IVF	Direct Transfer Sexed Semen - Male-IVF
DTF-IVF	Direct Transfer Embryo Biopsied - Female-IVF
DTM-IVF	Direct Transfer Embryo Biopsied - Male-IVF
DTB	Direct Transfer Biopsied

Figure 2. Embryo identification on straw (for direct transfer). If not frozen for direct transfer, omit "DT" and remainder of code applies. If vitrified, add "VIT" by itself or with any of the other codes listed above that apply (e.g., DT-VIT-IVF). From IETS Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Ch. 9, pg. 92.