

# The AfSBT Accreditation Programme – Achievements and Future Plans

Rob Wilkinson  
AfSBT Accreditation Manager

**Africa Society for Blood Transfusion**



## **The Role of AfSBT in Accreditation**

- **To be the accrediting body**
- **To be the custodian of the *Standards***
- **To maintain a cadre of qualified and experienced assessors in Africa**
- **To seek funding from international agencies to assist in keeping the programme affordable**
- **To provide training and assistance to facilities seeking accreditation**

## Setting the *Standards*

- Team of international experts to draft *Standards*
- Guidance from the AABB team of experts, drawing on their own resources (AABB Standards)

### References-

- ISO Quality Standards
- WHO aide-mémoires related to blood safety



## **Setting the *Standards***

- **Council of Europe – Guide to the Preparation, Use and Quality Assurance of Blood Components**
- **European Blood Inspection System – Standards and Criteria for the Inspection of Blood Establishments**
- **Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the UK**
- **Standards for the Practice of Blood Transfusion in South Africa (*and others*)**
- **Placed on the Internet for public view and comment**

**MAKE NO  
APOLOGIES FOR  
SETTING HIGH  
STANDARDS.**

## Setting the *Standards*

One set of *Standards* - written to express international requirements

Meeting the Standards is a progression – 3 Steps

- **Step 1:** Certified (basic) quality and operation
- **Step 2:** Certified quality and operation
- **Step 3:** Accredited standard

I am Great  
and everyone  
knows it

# Programme Outline

**AfSBT Standards consist of 11 Sections –**

- 1. Quality**
- 2. Blood donor management**
- 3. Collection of blood from donors**
- 4. Handling, transportation and storage**
- 5. Testing of donated blood**
- 6. Blood component production**

## Programme Outline

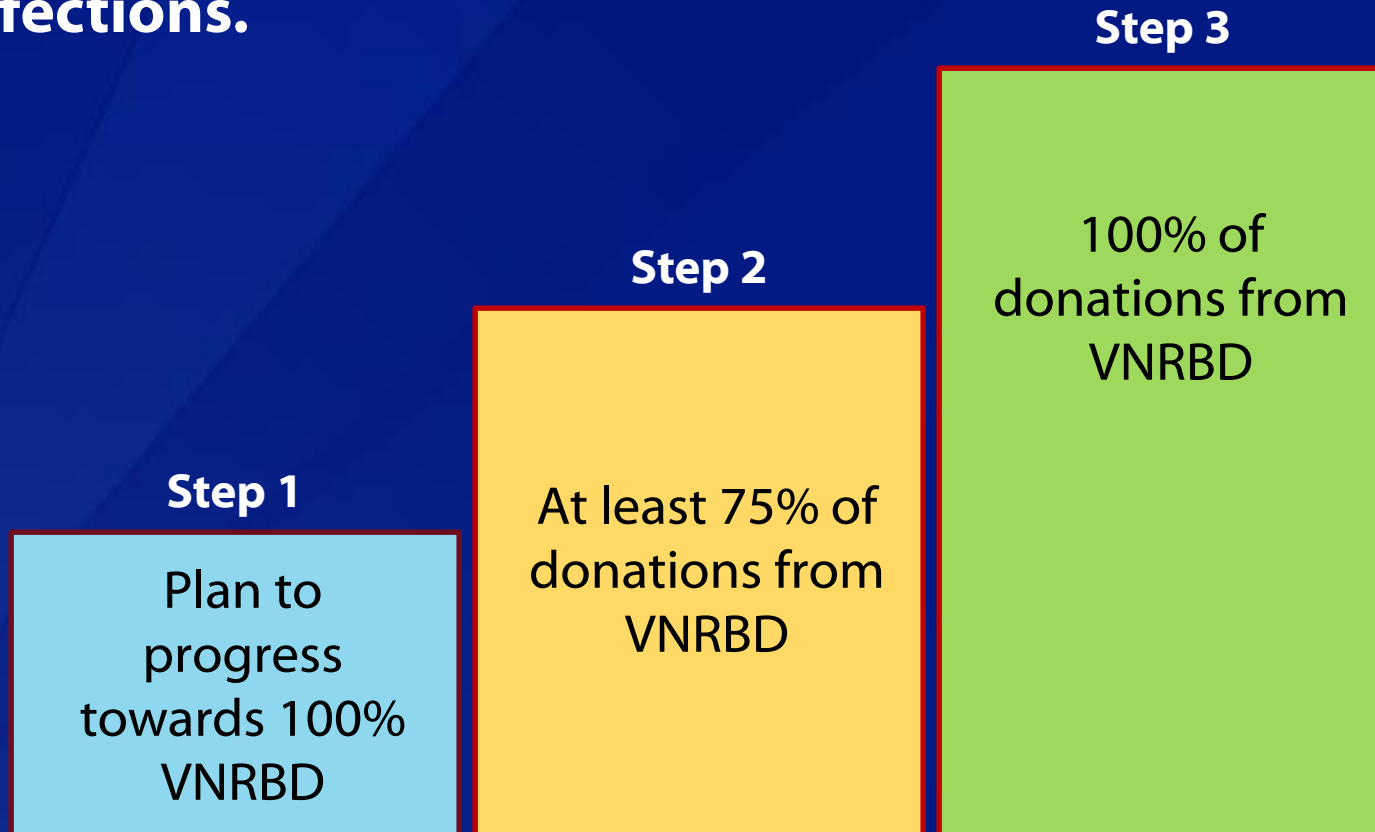
AfSBT Standards consist of 11 Sections –

7. Receipt, ordering, selection and/or issuing of blood
8. Compatibility testing
9. Haemovigilance and the clinical interface
10. Blood administration
11. National Blood Service accreditation requirements



## Example – Step-Wise Progression

- ❑ Blood shall be collected from healthy, voluntary non-remunerated donors, in populations identified by the facility to be at low-risk for transfusion transmitted infections.





# Assessments

**Assessments may be conducted at facility level or national level**

**Assessment or certification valid for three years**





## Lessons learned

- Accreditation is new and “foreign” to many facilities
- Some *Standards* need to be clarified
- Pre-assessment evaluations are often poorly done
- There is a great need for training and advocacy before initiating the programme
- Technical assistance and guidance is often required while preparing for accreditation





## Where to from here?

- **Creation of two separate divisions within AfSBT**
  - **Education and Training**
  - **Accreditation**
- **Full review of the *Standards* scheduled for 2016**
- **Translation of all documents into French**
- **Development of “generic” quality documents**



WHERE DO WE GO  
FROM HERE?

## Where to from here?

- **Development of Internet based education and training**
- **Conducting more pre-assessment evaluations**
- **Conducting more accreditation/certification assessments**
- **Obtain accreditation for the Accreditation Programme**
- **Development of a programme to ensure sustainability**



**Thank you for your attention !**

**Africa Society for Blood Transfusion**

