

ECOO GUEST ARTICLE



LAURE-ANNE MARTINET
Secretary General
EuromContact

UNDERSTANDING UPCOMING CHANGES TO CONTACT LENS LABELS: WHAT EYE CARE PROFESSIONALS NEED TO KNOW

To improve patient safety and tracking of medical devices, including contact lenses, the European Union is introducing the **Unique Device Identifier (UDI) system**. This new system includes the ability to trace medical devices throughout their lifecycle.

Contributing to contact lens traceability: new regulatory requirements for Eye Care Professionals

Eye Care Professionals (ECPs) play a key role in ensuring the traceability of contact lenses. As a distributor of medical devices, ECPs are responsible for verifying that a UDI has been assigned by the manufacturer before making the lens available to patients.

For contact lenses, this means a **Master UDI (MUDI)**, a unique identifier assigned to a group of lenses with common attributes.

New barcodes on contact lens labels for better traceability

By 9 **November 2026**, all contact lens labels will include Master UDI information in 2 formats:

- **Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC):** A machine-readable format, such as a 2D data matrix barcode.
- **Human Readable Interpretation (HRI):** A plain-text version of the MUDI information.

See the example on the next page.

This means that, for example with standard contact lenses, the Master UDI can be identified either by scanning the data matrix or by reading the numbers following the mention **“(8014)”** on the packaging.



Depending on the current labeling practices, the following updates will occur:

- If a barcode **already exists** on the label, the Master UDI code will be incorporated into it.
- If **no AIDC (e.g. barcode)** is currently present, a new AIDC containing all information, including the Master UDI, will be added.

advisable to **check with the software provider** to confirm compatibility and identify any necessary updates.

During the transition period, ECPS may come across both **old and new labeling formats**. Being prepared to handle both will help ensure a smooth adaptation.

For more detailed information, refer to the [EuromContact factsheet for eye care professionals](#) on UDI and upcoming labeling updates.

How to prepare for a smooth transition

Practices that scan barcodes on contact lens packaging should ensure that their software and scanners can read the updated codes with the Master UDI. It would also be

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ABOUT EUROMCONTACT

[EUROMCONTACT](#) represent the European Manufacturers of contact lenses and lens care products to to EU institutions, stakeholders and the trade press, providing expertise for policy-makers and helping shape the right regulatory environment.

ABOUT ECOO

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECCOO) represents the interests of optometrists and opticians across Europe. Our members are national professional associations from 25 countries who together represent more than 200,000 opticians and optometrists. ECOO aims to promote eye health to the public across borders and to harmonise clinical and educational standards of optometric and optical practice throughout Europe.