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# \*AATB BULLETIN\*

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**American Association of Tissue Banks**  
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February 25, 2008

No. 08-10  
Page 1 of 2

## **A L E R T**

**TO:**                    **Designated Representatives**  
                              **AATB-Accredited Tissue Banks**

**FROM:**                **P. Robert Rigney, Jr., Esq., Chief Executive Officer**  
                              **Scott Brubaker, CTBS, Chief Policy Officer**  
                              **Debbie Butler-Newman, Director of Accreditation**

**SUBJECT:**            **Forged AATB Accreditation Certificates**

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The Association has learned of at least two instances overseas where forged AATB Accreditation Certificates have allegedly been presented by companies trying to do business with healthcare facilities. The documents in question are copies of actual Accreditation Certificates, probably downloaded from the accredited bank's website, that have been altered to change the name of the accredited facility and the effective dates of accreditation.

Fortunately, from what we currently know, these forged documents have appeared only in the Country of Turkey. In addition, there is only one non-accredited firm whose name appears on each of the forged certificates, and it is located in the United Kingdom. That firm is Biovision Medical Limited ([www.biovision-medical.com](http://www.biovision-medical.com)). The names of a couple other firms have been brought to our attention, and we are investigating those organizations.

In response to these developments, we have initiated the following actions:

1. We have notified the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who is alerting its Office of International Programs. We have also contacted the Human Tissue Authority in Great Britain, and they have initiated an investigation.
2. We have advised the parties in Turkey that Biovision Medical Limited and the other entities brought to our attention are not accredited.

3. We are alerting our accredited banks and individual members via this *Bulletin*, and we are putting a notice on our website.
4. We are informing the other international tissue banking organizations.
5. We are contacting Biovision Medical Limited and the other entities brought to our attention to inform them and to determine if they are a party to this forgery, and if so, to cease and desist.
6. We are developing recommendations and measures to help address this type of forgery in the future.

We will keep you advised of any further developments. In the meantime, if you hear of any other similar situations, please let us know immediately.

cc: Board of Governors