

# AN11809

## Feature comparison between ICODE SLIX, ICODE SLIX2, ICODE 3, and ICODE DNA

Rev. 1.2 — 19 November 2024

Application note

### Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	ICODE 3, ICODE SLIX2, ICODE SLIX, ICODE DNA features
Abstract	Feature comparison between ICODE family products



## 1 Introduction

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This application note provides an overview of the ICODE SLIX, ICODE SLIX2, ICODE DNA, and ICODE 3 features. The ICODE ICs are ISO18000-3M1 and ISO/IEC 15693 compliant, with extended features to make the read/write and anti-collision operations faster and more efficient. These features can also be used in mixed populations together with other ISO/IEC 15693 tags.

## 2 Feature comparison

### 2.1 Feature comparison matrix

Table 1. ICODE feature comparison table

Product features	ICODE SLIX	ICODE SLIX2	ICODE DNA	ICODE 3	ICODE 3 TagTamper
User memory [bit]	896	2528	2016	2400	2400
UID size [bit]	64	64	64	64	64
Data Retention [years]	50	50	50	50	50
Write Endurance [cycles]	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000 (typ. 500k for counter)	100.000 (typ. 500k for counter)
Anti-collision Speed	up to 60 units/s	90 units/s <sup>[1]</sup>	90 units/s <sup>[1]</sup>	90 units/s <sup>[1]</sup>	90 units/s <sup>[1]</sup>
Fast Inventory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SELFAadjust	-	-	-	✓ <sup>[2]</sup>	✓
TagTamper	-	-	-	-	✓
NFC Mirror	-	-	-	UID / Counter	UID / Counter / TagTamper
<b>Security Functions</b>					
Tag Authentication	-	-	AES – 128-bit	-	-
EAS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EAS Protection	32-bit password	32-bit password	AES – 128-bit	32-bit password	32-bit password
EAS Selective	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
AFI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AFI Protection	32-bit password	32-bit password	AES – 128-bit	32-bit password	32-bit password
Persistent Quiet	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Memory write lock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Memory access protection	-	32-bit password	AES – 128-bit	32-bit password	32-bit password
Privacy Protection	-	32-bit password	AES – 128-bit	32-bit password	32-bit password
Destroy Protection	-	32-bit password	AES – 128-bit	32-bit password	32-bit password
Counter / NFC Counter	-	✓	✓	✓ / ✓	✓ / ✓
Originality Signature	-	✓	reprogrammable	reprogrammable up to 384 bit	reprogrammable up to 384 bit
Privacy	-	✓ <sup>[3]</sup>	✓ <sup>[4]</sup>	✓ <sup>[3][4]</sup>	✓ <sup>[3][4]</sup>
Cres Capacitance [pF]	no / 23.5 / 97	23.5	23.5	23.5 / 97	23.5

[1] With extended Fast Inventory Read

[2] SELFAadjust only available on 23.5 pF variant.

[3] Privacy Mode 1: Tag will only respond to custom commands and will not show up in anticollision.

[4] Privacy Mode 2: Tag will respond with zeroed ID, random ID possible for next inventory.

The **ICODE DNA** in contrast to other ICODE products supports the following features:

- Cryptographic Tag authentication:
  - As defined in ISO/IEC 15693-3 Amendment 4 ([\[1\]](#)) and ISO/IEC 29167-10 ([\[2\]](#)), ICODE DNA supports the authentication procedure. It allows tag or mutual authentication based on 128-bit AES password protection.
  - Three (3) user keys can be used. Each key has separate privileges to define different access rights. Optionally, an authentication limit – maximum number of authentications - may be set (and reset with valid mutual authentication).
- Authentication limit: the maximum number of authentications can be set. Reset is possible with valid mutual authentication.
- Reprogrammable customer ID (CID).

The **ICODE DNA** and/or **ICODE 3** support the following features:

- Programmable originality signature:
  - 32-byte ECC-based originality signature (ICODE DNA)
  - 32-byte or 48-byte ECC-based originality signature (ICODE 3)
- Counter feature (already introduced in SLIX2): enables the counting of WRITE commands, and the control of the counter values and access.
- Improved privacy mode.

## 2.2 Use cases of ICODE DNA special features

### 2.2.1 Product authentication

The cryptographic authentication of the tag increases the likelihood that the tag is authentic.

### 2.2.2 Mutual/reader authentication

Mutual authentication provides:

- Proof of the tag authenticity based on a common secret key.
- Proof of the reader access rights to the protected data or functionality of the tag.
- Protection against unauthorized data access or unauthorized manipulation.

Reader authentication has an increased level of security for:

- User memory
- EAS/AFI
- Privacy
- Destroy

### 2.2.3 Reprogrammable Customer ID

Examples of use of the Customer ID (CID) are: IC customization, application identification, product family, and more. The CID can be reprogrammed and permanently locked.

### 2.2.4 Authentication limit

The authentication limit feature is used to limit the number of authentications (tag and mutual authentications) with each CHALLENGE or AUTHENTICATE command. After reaching the limit number, no further authentications are possible – irreversible status. Prior to reaching the authentication limit, mutual authentication is necessary to reset the limit. This feature adds security value.

## 2.3 Use cases of ICODE DNA and ICODE 3 special features

### 2.3.1 Improved privacy

- Tags in privacy mode show up in standard anti-collision
- Anti-collision possible with several tags in privacy mode
- Easy identification of group key based on CID

### 2.3.2 Reprogrammable Originality Signature

Brand owners and consumers can validate the originality of goods using their own signature.

Customers have the ability to rewrite the factory programmed Originality Signature according to their own needs. They can use the WRITE\_CONFIG command to overwrite the Originality Signature bytes. The Originality Signature is located in Configuration memory. As the WRITE\_CONFIG command allows only 4 bytes to be written at once, eight (8) writes are needed for the 32-byte Originality Signature.

**Note:** ICODE 3 supports 32-byte or 48-byte ECC originality signature. Refer to [\[3\]](#).

Customers can use any crypto system (for example RSA, AES, or ECC). The recommendation is to use an asymmetric system, which allows the public key (signature verification) to be shared.

### 3 References

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- [1] ISO/IEC 15693-3:2019 Cards and security devices for personal identification — Contactless vicinity objects — Part 3: Anticollision and transmission protocol
- [2] ISO/IEC 29167-10:2017 Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Part 10: Crypto suite AES-128 security services for air interface communications
- [3] Data sheet - SL2S3003/SL2S3003TT ICODE 3 (TagTamper) ([link](#))

## 4 Revision history

Table 2. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
AN11809 v.1.2	19 November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Section 2.1 "Feature comparison matrix": Table 1</a>: added security function "Privacy", added 97 pF for ICODE 3.</li><li>• <a href="#">Section 3 "References"</a>: updated</li></ul>
AN11809 v.1.1	02 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extended the applicability to ICODE 3.</li></ul>
AN11809 v.1.0	16 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial version</li></ul>



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