3DISC Adds RFID to Its Digital Dental X-Ray System

FireID RFID reader

3DISC Imaging, a U.S. company specializing in imaging products for the medical, dental, chiropractic and veterinary markets, has announced a new version of its computed radiography, or cradiography, system for the dental market that features RFID capabilities compliant with the ISO 15693 standard for 13.56 MHz passive RFID tags. The FireCR Dental Reader is used for taking dental x-rays and converting them into digital images, the company reports. Its small size—about that of a shoebox—and features mean that the FireCR Dental Reader can be deployed in individual examination rooms, allowing for faster diagnosis and streamlined patient care, since there is no wait time required to leave the room in order to scan images on a centralized scanner, the company says. The accompanying FireID RFID reader is designed to provide a quick and accurate way to register data relevant to each individual patient, according to 3DISC, and to improve productivity and optimize chairside time with patients. The firm manufactures its imaging plates with RFID tags embedded in them. When a dental technician is ready to perform a patient x-ray, that patient's data is entered into the 3DISC system and the FireID device is used to scan the tagged imaging plate in order to collect its unique ID number. The 3DISC system automatically associates the patient data with the correct imaging plate, prior to an x-ray, explains Joshua Goldman, 3DISC's VP of technical operations. After the technician takes the x-ray, the imaging plate is placed into a tray attached to the FireCR Dental Reader that contains an RFID antenna. The RFID tag within the imaging plate is again scanned, Goldman explains, in order to associate the captured image on the plate (which is displayed on the system) with the correct patient. Once that scan is completed, the system releases that unique ID (via software coding in the 3DISC system) from the patient so the imaging plate can be reused. The RFID functionality enables a dental practice to conduct and review multiple x-rays without mix-ups, Goldman says. "The FireID eliminates accidents, where an image is lined to the wrong patient file," he states. The company has also added support for tablets to review images; 3DISC's new QuantorTab software can be downloaded from an app store for use on tablet computers running Android and iOS operating systems. According to the company, the software features an easy-to-use touch screen interface that provides dentists with immediate access to a patient's dental images.