

# Licensing of imperix software

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**Nicolas CHERIX**

Head of Engineering

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All imperix products subject to user programming from the [ACG SDK](#) or the [CPP SDK](#) require a software license. This concerns the B-Box controllers family as well as the B-Board PRO and the TPI8032.

This page provides background information on the particular policy employed at imperix, as well as practical details regarding the procurement, implementation and maintenance of the corresponding licenses with the following controllers:

Product	Environments	License required	User Manual
<a href="#">B-Box 4</a>	<a href="#">ACG SDK</a> and <a href="#">CPP SDK</a>	YES	<a href="#">Link</a>
<a href="#">B-Box RCP 3</a>	<a href="#">ACG SDK</a> and <a href="#">CPP SDK</a>	YES	<a href="#">Link</a>
<a href="#">B-Board PRO 3.0</a>	<a href="#">ACG SDK</a> and <a href="#">CPP SDK</a>	YES	<a href="#">Link</a>

<a href="#">B-Box micro</a>	<a href="#">ACG SDK</a> and <a href="#">CPP SDK</a>	YES	<a href="#">Link</a>
<a href="#">TPI 8032</a>	<a href="#">ACG SDK</a> and <a href="#">CPP SDK</a>	YES	<a href="#">Link</a>

Comparative information on the ACG and CPP SDKs is given at

[imperix.com/software](http://imperix.com/software).

Further details and comparisons about the different hardware variants are given in [PN250](#).

## License types

Imperix commercializes two license types corresponding to two distinct computer-based software development environments for which they are intended; these two environments corresponding themselves to two Software Development Kits (SDK) sold by imperix.

- License for use with the [ACG SDK](#) (automated code generation from Simulink/PLECS). **Product:** SDK-ACG3
- License for use with the [CPP SDK](#) (code development in C/C++. **Product:** SDK-CPP3

In the vast majority of cases, imperix licenses are time-unlimited, but hardware-locked and non-transferable. They are generally provided as a file that comes pre-loaded inside the controller (on its SD card).

Both licenses are subject to imperix's End User License Agreement, which can be consulted during the software installation process.

Imperix cannot offer licenses for products sold by *Mathworks Inc.* or *PLEXIM GmbH*.

Users are asked to procure the necessary licences directly from the respective product owners, namely:

- Matlab, Simulink, Simulink Coder, Embedded Coder and Matlab Coder from [Mathworks Inc.](#)
- PLECS and PLECS Coder from [Plexim GmbH](#).

## Licensing policy

### Target-based licensing

Imperix software is subject to a right of use, which is licensed on a **per-controller** basis rather than a **per-computer** (or per-seat) basis. This licensing policy differs from most software.

Thanks to this, users benefit from the following advantages:

- The desired development environment can be installed on an unlimited number of computers (e.g. staff, students, etc.).
- Control models can be developed and simulated on a different computer (e.g. personal or office computer) than the one used for programming the system (e.g. shared computer in the lab).
- Software can be installed and evaluated free of charge before having real equipment in hands.
- Internet access is never required (neither from the computer, nor the controller).

In practice, a valid license is required to run a custom-designed control software (typically, a set of control algorithms) **on a CPU**. This can be seen as a license to **program/flash** the controller, which is tested when the code is started (automatically, or based on user actions in [Cockpit](#)).

This second particularity has the following implications:

- **All systems implementing a single controller require a programming license.** In this case, the controller is inevitably the master, receiving and executing some code. Therefore, users who only possess one B-Box or one TPI8032 (for instance) naturally fall into this category.
- **In master-slave configurations with stacked controllers, licenses are not required for the slaves.** The latter are used as I/O extensions only, and their CPUs are not programmed and left unused.
- In multi-master configurations, only the units meant to receive a run-time code (i.e. the masters) require a license. Those operated as slaves don't (see above).

This strategy also has the following further benefits and implications:

- **Slaves are cheaper than masters.** Therefore, a system with twice the number of I/Os is not twice the price. In our opinion, this is more fair, as the computing power doesn't double in this case.
- Customizing the firmware of the **FPGA is always free of charge.** It is indeed possible to upload a custom bitfile into a slave, even if the latter doesn't possess a CPU programming license.
- Volume discounts are provided so that users with more targets than computers are not disadvantaged when compared to a computer-locked approach.

## Volume discounts

Imperix offers volume discounts that are characterized by a **steep discount curve**. Besides, discounts are gradually increased as a function of the **total amount of purchased licenses**. The accumulation of licences is counted per research group (BU, institute, etc.) on a single location.

In order to consider the total history of purchases, a specific discount is applied to the N<sup>th</sup> license (see left table below), so that the equivalent aggregated discount is implemented (see right table below).

License purchase	Unit discount on Nth
1st (first)	0%
2nd (second)	41%
3rd (third)	49%
4th (fourth)	53%
5th (fifth)	55%
10th (tenth)	62%
20th (twentieth)	67%
50th (fiftieth)	73%
100th (hundredth)	76%

Total # of licenses	Aggregated discount
1	0%
2	20.5%
3	29.8%
4	35.5%
5	42.5%
10	49.8%
20	57.6%
50	65.5%
100	70.1%

Besides, in case both the ACG and CPP licenses are activated on a controller, a 50% additional price reduction is granted on the CPP license.

## Maintenance

Imperix licenses truly are one-time purchases and grant users with **free software maintenance** as well as **lifetime access to updates, bug fixes and product support**.

Thanks to permanent licenses with free maintenance, users can continuously use imperix software throughout the entire life of the controller(s), and can also leverage all updates at no extra cost. Future software releases can be downloaded and used without restrictions of any kind. Imperix does not charge any maintenance fee at any point in time.

Free product support is also offered to customers facing trouble with an imperix product not operating as intended. Technical or engineering assistance beyond this point is however provided on a discretionary basis. Imperix reserves the right to offer consulting services in lieu of extensive support demands.

## Practical considerations

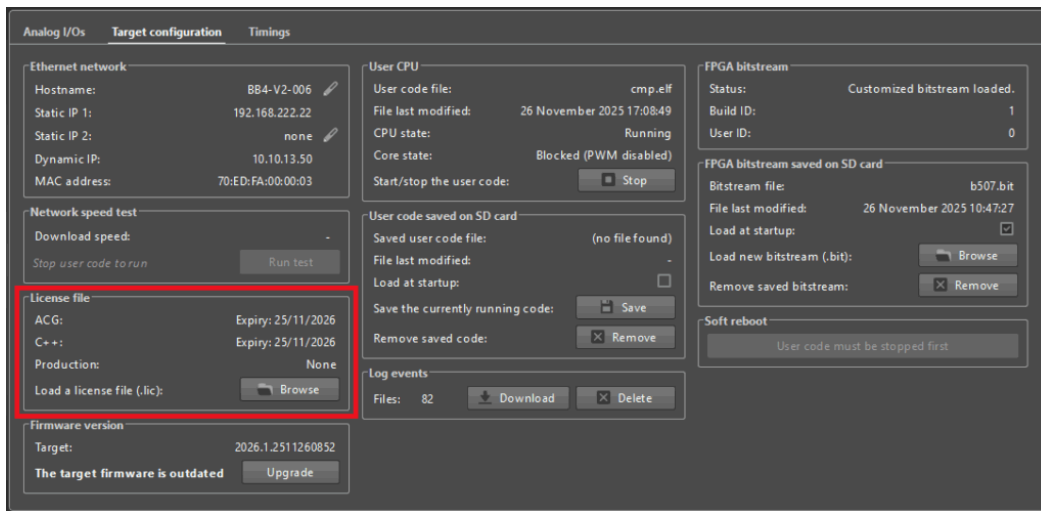
### License file

The right to use the software is embodied by a license file containing a digital key, stored on the designated controller. To ensure that the software only operates with the intended hardware, a cryptographic challenge is executed at the code startup.

The CPP and the ACG licenses are fully independent, so that a controller may be supported by either one or both environments at once.

### Manual update

Licensing information can be accessed in the “Target information” section of each controller, using Cockpit. If necessary, the licensing can be updated by uploading a newer license file.



Target configuration dialog box inside Cockpit.

## Going further

Imperix publishes two software releases, generally available simultaneously. Both releases support all imperix controllers and are available at [imperix.com/downloads](https://imperix.com/downloads).

- A STABLE release, containing thoroughly-tested features and capabilities.
- A BETA release, featuring the most recent developments.

Specific user manuals are available for each product and supporting software:

Imperix SDK	For use with	User Manual
ACG	Simulink	<a href="#">Getting-started ACG SDK</a>
CPP	Imperix IDE (Eclipse)	<a href="#">Getting-started C/C++</a>
(both)	FPGA programming	<a href="#">Getting-started FPGA</a>