

1. i agree completely with the fcc's assessment (nprm 98-143 para. 19-21 as to the decreasing role of morse code in present and future communications.
2. i believe the use of morse code by amateur radio licensees is now for recreational purposes only.
3. i believe that there is no longer any public/governmental interest served by requiring code testing.
4. i believe, therefore, that all testing of morse code should be ended.
5. i also recognise the existence of the international regulations article s25.5 (nprm para. 22) and i suggest an interim requirement of only a single code test with only the minimum speed necessary to meet international teaty requirements but in no case, more than five (5) wpm for all the hf license classes until such time as article s25.5 is deleted.
6. a single minimum ccode speed examination would prove knowledge of morse code and eliminate the need to grant medical waivers to disabled amateurs for the higher speed telegraphy requirements.
(nprm para. 25 and rm-9196)
7. i respectively suggest that any interim code speed requirement used to fulfill the international radio regulations, article s25.5, be written to include language that would automatically end the interim code requirements within three (3) months or less of the ending/elimination of article s25.5.
8. as a result of all morse code testing being 5 wpa and considering the small difference between the advanced and amateur extra class, i believe only three license classes are needed. these classes would correspond to the current technician, general, and amateur extra class.