

I would like to comment on Docket 98-143.

As an active Technician Class Amateur (kb9qqe) I have an interest in the results of this rulemaking. It is my opinion that the Morse Code requirement is a method of testing that should no longer be required. This method of communications is no longer supported by any commercial or military operators. I would hope that those who enjoy it continue to operate as this is a hobby, but to require it for a license is not doing the best thing for the hobby. There is no requirement for the newer methods of communications, why is the morse code still there?

I understand the international agreement. I therefore propose that the requirement be reduced to 5 wpm for ANY class of license with access to HF bands as required. I would not object to a 2 wpm requirement even. But nothing more than 5 wpm in any class.

I also would suggest that a statement be made by the US to the rest of the world that as soon as the international requirement is removed we will AUTOMATICALLY sunset the morse code requirement altogether. This should be written into the new rulemaking documents.

The only way we can make our hobby grow, and produce enough amateurs who are buying new products is to get rid of requirements that do not hold their interest. The future is in digital communications. Without serious numbers, we will stay as far behind in that field as we are now. There will NEVER be vendors producing products at reasonable prices as long as there is no interest.

These proposals are not only good for our hobby, but they are good for the country as well. This will open up opportunities for manufacturer's to sell more and faster products.

Thank you,

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