

Proposed Simplification of the Amateur  
Radio Licensing  
Structure

My name is David E. Greer, of 121 Abbey Ridge Drive, Bardstown, KY. I hold an Amateur Extra Class license and have been licensed nearly 30 years. My amateur call sign is N4KZ.

In summary, the amateur radio service should reduce the number of license classes to three. The current number is excessive and results in needless duplication. The novice class is no longer needed. Yes, advanced class licensees should be permitted to serve as VEs for general class operators. RACES call signs are no longer needed. My recommendations on the telegraphy and written examination requirements are contained below.

I recommend the FCC:

1. Reduce the current number of amateur license classes to three.
2. Reduce the current levels of Morse Code proficiency to 5 and 10 wpm.
3. Name the three classes of license A, B and C -- with C being the entry-level license and A being the highest-level license.
4. Eliminate all Morse Code medical waivers.

Details:

1. Class C would be equivalent to the current Technician license. No Morse Code requirement and full amateur privileges above 30 MHz. Same written examination as now. All current Technicians would become Class C licensees.
2. Class B would be equivalent to the current General license. Morse Code requirement would be 5 wpm. Written examination to cover material contained in the current General and Advanced class tests. Current Novice, Technician Plus and General class licensees to be grandfathered to Class B so not to lose existing HF privileges.

Voice privileges to include:

80 meters 3800 to 4000 kHz

40 meters 7200 to 7300 kHz

15 meters 21,300 to 21,450 kHz

All other voice privileges to coincide with existing General class voice sub-bands.

Morse Code and data privileges to include:

80 meters 3525 to 3700 kHz

40 meters 7025 to 7075 and 7100 to 7125 kHz

15 meters 21,025 to 21,150 kHz

All other Morse Code and data privileges to coincide with existing General class CW and data sub-bands.

3. Class A would be equivalent to the current Extra class license. Morse Code requirement would be 10 wpm. Written examination to cover material contained in the current Extra class test. Current Advanced and Extra class licensees to become Class A holders.

Voice privileges to include:

80 meters 3700 to 4000 kHz

40 meters 7075 to 7100 and 7125 to 7300 kHz

15 meters 21,150 to 21,450 kHz

All other voice privileges to coincide with existing Extra class voice sub-bands.

Morse Code and data privileges to include:

80 meters 3500 to 3700 kHz

40 meters 7000 to 7075 and 7100 to 7125 kHz

15 meters 21,000 to 21,150 kHz

All other Morse Code and data privileges to coincide with existing Extra class CW and data sub-bands.

This proposed license structure offers these benefits:

1. Reduces administrative burden on FCC staff by reducing number of current license classes by 50 percent.
  2. Reduces the burden on volunteer examiners by reducing number of current license classes by 50 percent and decreasing Morse Code tests from 5, 13 and 20 wpm to 5 and 10 wpm.
  3. Increases the desirability of becoming an amateur radio service licensee.
  4. Gives Morse Code proficiency a more realistic standing in today's world.
  5. Eliminates the need for Morse Code medical waivers.
- Provides substantial incentive for licensees to upgrade