

I do not feel knowledge of Morse code in ANY way fits into today's Amateur Radio. Let me quote from Part 97.1(c). c.

"Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art."

Morse code can not be advanced. To use it as a barrier for entry keeps the otherwise inclined technicians and engineers out of the hobby. This greatly handicaps the pool of individuals needed for the advancement of the art.

I would encourage the FCC to drop all Morse code testing within one year of it being dropped from International Treaty.

As for levels of testing, I feel that, if there is a need for multiple levels of licenses, these levels should be based on need, not history. For example, tougher technical testing could insure that an amateur knows how to safely handle higher power levels. Or operate a repeater. Or communicate with space stations. These higher levels of licenses, or certifications, would allow the amateur to use the technology he/she has shown competency in.

Thank you for considering these changes. The "No Code" change made it possible for this General Radio Telephone Licensee to enter ham radio above 50 MHz. With minor modifications, these changes can take me, and amateur radio, into the next century.

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