

Dear FCC:

Regrading the proposed rules changes to the Amateur Radio Service, I agree that the Novice licence be eliminated. However, I believe that the Technician Plus licence be retained. Perhaps, more operating privileges in the HF bands for this "beginners" HF licence would be appropriate.

We should retain the current three levels of code tests. The code tests truly measure both dedication to the service and operating skills, due to the time spent learning and operating. There are also valid applications using CW in communications. In some ways the elements 1 A,B and C are better exam elements than the multiple choice tests. I know of some people who can quickly memorize the answers to the written elements with very little knowledge of the subject, and very little operating knowledge.

Given the current exam elements and upgrading structure, the three levels of code testing provide a good compliment to the written elements in the incentive licensing system and should be retained. Having a top licence class with 20 WPM should definitely be retained as an incentive to greater operating skill. Regarding the methods of testing, the current methods of multiple choice and fill the blanks are acceptable.

Regarding the written examination elements, the currents system of topic areas and specified number of questions should be continued. However, more emphasis should be given to setting-up of amateur stations, operation of equipment, and correct operating procedures on the air.

I currently hold the amateur call sign: KQ6TI. I have moved through each of the levels from Technician to Amateur Extra over the last three years. I am currently accredited as a VE with ARRL and W5YI and assist as a VE with my local club. I am a radio merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts and have helped several boys get their licenses. Being involved in the Amateur Service is one of the best activities with which I have had experience. Since the current system has produced such a great service, hobby, people and more, it is pretty good and perhaps needs some fine tuning, not major changes.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Mandich