

I am an Amateur radio operator, KE6BBS, and I strongly support the proposal submitted by No-Code International concerning the abolishment of current Morse Code examination requirements for all Amateur license classes. Morse Code is no longer relevant in terms of personal communications into the next century. Current Morse Code requirements have become a "hazing rite" that discriminates and keeps otherwise well-qualified people out of Amateur radio.

I am using my home computer to send this comment. It would be the same as if I were required to send you this message in Morse Code. I would ask you WHY?? So I ask you WHY I have to learn Morse Code to communicate with you, when I already know how to talk! It just doesn't make sense, especially when we are entering the age of digital satellite communications and cell phones. Amateur Radio needs to reach out to all citizens, to introduce them to this great hobby and to GROW! This will not happen as long as we continue to maintain arbitrary and capricious Morse Code licensing requirements.

Should the Commission conclude that some sort of Morse Code requirement is needed to comply with the ITU treaty section S25.5, I strongly recommend that the code testing speed be limited to 5 WPM for all classes. Additionally, I support a "sunset clause" in the wording of Part 97 that would eliminate ALL Morse Code testing as soon as the requirement in S25.5 is struck from the ITU treaty.

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