

I am an amateur radio operator and long-time enthusiast. My Call Sign is: KD6OMS. I should like to comment on the continued morse code requirement for amateur radio licensing, especially in increased speeds for the higher classifications of licenses. I personally have taken and passed the minimum requirement for 5 WPM, but have not pursued a higher class of license because of the Code requirement. I am sure there are many licensees, including myself, who would pursue higher classifications of licenses if it were not for the increasing difficulty in passing the morse code tests. In my opinion, the morse code requirement, in its entirety, is no longer relevant. It's time to get in step with the real world; to entertain the incorporation of the new technologies and eliminate our excess baggage. Morse code requirements are outdated and unnecessary. Those who enjoy using the code should not be prevented from doing so, but by the same token, those who are not interested in the entertainment value of demonstrating their proficiency in the use of the code, should not be required to do so. Let's get caught up with the times; let's encourage more otherwise well-qualified people to become Radio Amateurs; let us certainly eliminate the code testing in its entirety as soon as the requirement in S25.5 is struck from the ITU treaty.