

I write to support Mr. Reich's request to automatically upgrade Novice and Advanced Class Amateur Radio License holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has twenty or more years of operating experience.

The reduced importance of competency in CW (Morse Code) places increased emphasis and importance upon the written portion of the exam. In 1978 when I took my written exam, it was the same exam as that required for the Amateur Extra Class. Hence, it seems to me that people in my position have not only qualified technically for the Extra Class license, but their twenty year plus commitment to the hobby and its attendant responsibilities certainly qualifies them for the proposed automatic upgrade.

Thank you for your attention.
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