

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dustin Maggard, and I am a radio amateur. My callsign is KI4BOO, and this paper is my comment regarding the elimination of the International Morse Code Proficiency exam from the Amateur Radio service.

I feel it is in the best interest of the service for the exam to be eliminated. Morse Code is a part of radio history, and it will never be forgotten or lost. However, it is very antiquated and is no longer a necessary. Proficiency in Morse Code is not necessary to be able to properly operate an amateur radio station in the high frequency bands. This requirement is keeping many able-minded amateurs from being able to enjoy using amateur bands above 30MHz because they can't seem to learn the code well enough to pass the exam.

Many other countries have dropped their requirements for amateurs to pass a Morse Proficiency exam, and it is in the best interest for the United States to follow suit. It would really help to attract new Radio Amateurs to the service if the requirement for Morse Code was dropped.

Thank you,
-Dustin Maggard
KI4BOO