

Response to FCC solicited comments: RM-10808
From: T. Nick Hulbert KG5N

The Petitioner of RM-10808 seeks to lump communications modes into selectable exams and licensed to do so based upon that knowledge as demonstrated by passing. In general such examinations do little to ready an operator to utilize these modes as the majority of these as suggested are built into the equipment or accessories as purchased. Arguments to the contrary are only interesting. CW however is a “human based” interpretative skill, where although the equipment can perform the wireless transmit and receive function, the interpretative function can be performed by the operator, “by ear”. This skill alone sets apart the CW mode from machine or computer-based modes. While many would argue that computers could also receive and transmit CW, a proficient CW operator can do without the added infrastructure in order to communicate.

While I am in favor of retaining CW, I am not in favor of this petition as it stresses the examination process.