

November 3, 2003

RE: RM-10808

Dear Commissioners,

The petitioner argues that the current HF licenses have grown 13.4%, but yet doesn't comment that the total number of licenses have barely increased. Upgrading within the current population accounts for the vast majority of this increase.

The idea of attracting younger operators is pure wishful thinking. The cost of Amateur equipment is the largest factor in changing their interest. Building kits or using very low cost equipment only frustrates them. The majority of the young operators must have the help in buying or getting donated equipment. The Internet is a far greater attraction for young people.

The petitioners concern for CW identification of repeaters is needless. Current No Code Technicians have no problem with identifying the repeaters that they are using. If this was a major concern, it should have been addressed years ago.

Many years ago, the idea of mode privilege exams was discussed. At first, it sounds like a great way of preventing interference problems with new users of a mode. Unfortunately, it also makes someone think twice about using a new mode. Not only do you have the expense of the equipment and the time to install and debug it. You would now have to take a test. Many operators that try new modes only last brief periods of time before moving on to something else. Testing would not help attract new users to the mode.

The next problem is how to test new modes. Do you wavier establish users who were early in developing the mode? Do the developers of the mode need to be the creators of the new mode test? These are the questions that you must consider before implementing this idea.

The only thing that needs to change is the elimination of Element I. Just keep it simple.

Regards,  
Melvin Lehmann