

Dear FCC,

I disagree with the NCVEC's petition. The Morse code requirement should not be eliminated for any class of license or from the Amateur Radio Service. Morse code is still widely used on different parts of the Radio Amateur Service bands to communicate and identify. It is still widely used in the commercial radio industry as well.

The Morse code requirement is an integral and necessary component of the Amateur Radio Service. Even NASA astronauts learn Morse code in case their voice communications should fail. Some people with severe handicaps use Morse code to communicate. Morse code is still being used in the aviation industry for beacon and navigational purposes as well. The fact of the matter is Morse code works when single side band or voice communications will not. And Morse code still is the most reliable mode of communication in an emergency.

I hear a lot of radio amateurs who are unwilling to make any effort to learn Morse code, their excuse is that Morse code is obsolete or no longer needed, or that other countries have dropped their Morse code requirements.

But the fact of the matter is not all countries have dropped or will be dropping their Morse code requirements. Russia has already said that they will not be eliminating or dropping their Morse code requirements or lowering their standards. I don't see any countries south of our border like Mexico, or any of the other Central or South American countries dropping their Morse Code requirements either. And I don't think we the United States of America should be eliminating our Morse code requirements or lowering our standards by following what other countries do just because someone says we should. The countries that are not eliminating or lowering their Morse code requirements far exceed those that are.

Furthermore, amateur radio privileges or upgrades should not be given automatically to any licensee. The Amateur Radio Service does not need another new entry level license class when there is already an entry level "No-Code Technician Class" license available and in place. Since Restructuring took effect no one can say that there has not been an increase of people entering the hobby and upgrading, because there has been an increase.

The current entry level exams or upgrade exams are not stopping or preventing any people from becoming a licensed radio amateur or any licensed radio amateur from upgrading to a General or Extra Class license.

The only thing that prevents a person from upgrading are excuses or their unwillingness to at least try.

The Amateur Radio Service does not need further changing or lowering of its standards. I strongly disagree with the NCVEC's petition.

I say no to RM-10870

Sincerely,

Victor Magana, N1VM