

As a radio amateur operator Extra Class AB4A, I'm in favor of dropping Morse Code Testing proficiency. I feel that no particular mode should be singled out as being necessary to operate the HF Bands. However, I disagree on several other points of the document 05-235. I feel that there is a strong needs to introduce a Novice or Communicator grade of license from working with the Scouts & High School Students. There is little difference in between the Tech Class Test & the General Test. There are quite a few Techs that took the General Test as I did with the only difference being 5 word a minute for Tech & 13 word a minute for General. Likewise, most of the new questions for the Extra Class Test were taken directly from the old Advanced Class Test. To this end, I think it is of the up most importance to create a new Class whether it is called Communicator or Novice to introduce new operators to a limited use of the HF Bands. The current Tech License restricts them to a tiny window in the 10m band & privileges below this. With these limited privileges they become discouraged and drop out of the Hobby. I also agree there needs to be a limit of 200 watts of power so we can eliminate a number of safety issue questions. I would propose that we have a 20-question test for Novice with limited HF Band use on phone with a 200-watt power limit. Grandfather current Tech Class to General as they have taken approximately the same test & also Grandfather Advanced Classes to Extra since their tests were as hard as the present Extra Test.

In summation, I favor eliminating Morse code Testing but protecting the CW portions of the Band as they are now. I feel this will bring more people into the Hobby & they will learn Morse code on their own to work DX or operate under bad band conditions. I would like to see 3 Classifications, first being Novice with a 20 question exam, limited to 200 watts, with limited HF privileges on 80/40/10 meter phone bands. Next a General Test with 30 questions as presently constituted. Finally, 50 questions Extra exam, which I personally feel, should be increased in difficulty since it is our highest Class License. Thank you.