

I favor keeping the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra applicants only. Extra class operators use CW for repeater IDs and satellite telemetry. However it would be simpler to eliminate the code exam all together. I agree with Doug Durrett, KC7DJJ: "Hats off and thumbs up to the 05-235 proposal. Get it done ASAP". I disagree with other amateurs that doing away with the code testing would "weaken the service"; I doubt that "impending chaos would break out on the ham bands if the requirement goes away; it would not be the beginning of the end for Amateur Radio"; It would not mean "continuing down the slippery slope of 'dumbing down' the Amateur Radio Service"; I do not believe that the Morse code examination "contributes to better on-the-air discipline"; It is not an "important tradition"; amateurs are still free to learn cw for use as a "universal language". It may be a vital tool for use in an emergency, but I've only used it for that once when my 2 meter mic quit sending voice due to a loose wire, and I needed a friend to let the security guard at his condo know to let me in. In fact I have not used cw since I got my extra class license because voice and digital modes are so much better.

I believe that the Morse code on Amateur Radio is obsolete and that requiring amateurs to learn a system which is antiquated meets no public service need. The hurricane Katrina emergency nets are doing just fine on voice and data, without cw. Eliminating the Morse requirement would breathe new life into the Amateur Service. The US could certainly use more trained radio operators considering the post 9/11 world we live in. Additional roadblocks, like cw, to upgrading to HF make no sense today. Former CB radio license KBBW5908; ARS operator license WB7TBU; General Radiotelephone Operator License PGGB017119; (GMRS) WPSS516; experimental WD2XPW.