

To whom it may concern:

I agree with the Commission's proposal to eliminate the Morse requirement for all classes of amateur licenses.

Many have argued that this is the only mode that is useful for emergency communications during poor propagation conditions. While this may be true, emergencies do not always occur during poor propagation conditions. I have listened to some of the emergency traffic from the Gulf Coast area that is supporting the hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Most of the traffic I have heard is voice, not code. In fact, the only nets mentioned in the articles on the ARRL web site covering the hurricane effort are voice nets. There have been news stories highlighting amateur radio's role in those recovery efforts, and all of those stories have depicted operators using voice modes of communication.

I have read comments that indicate that this is the only "common" language. Whether you write it, type it, or speak it, English is still English. Those who think that Morse code is part of the history of ham radio are correct. It is a part of history. Those individuals should understand that the proposed rule change does not prevent them from using code. The use of Morse code should be a personal choice, not a requirement.

There should continue to be segments of each band set aside only for CW. This should be enough of an incentive to get operators who so desire interested in learning the code. It will allow those who enjoy using code the opportunity to use it.

There are likely many operators that would enjoy using HF bands for other than emergency

communication. The Morse requirement serves no purpose other than to make the entire amateur service restrictive. I have read comments indicating that the code requirement should be kept, that it is a necessary requirement for emergency communications. With over 12 years as a professional radio technician and amateur radio operator, the only thing I have seen the Morse requirement do is turn people away from upgrading their licenses. The requirement is not helping to build a pool of qualified operators, but is preventing just that very thing. It is a good bet that many of those currently licensed hams that learned code to get their license do not remember it well enough now to be effective using it.

It is in keeping with the technology of the times, and necessary to the further advancement and continued growth of the amateur radio community and the hobby as a whole to eliminate this antiquated requirement.