

Many have commented that the manual Morse proficiency requirement be retained for the Amateur Extra class license. There is no reason to require manual Morse proficiency as a licensing requirement for any class of license. Maintaining a Morse proficiency requirement for the Amateur Extra would be nothing more than a hazing ritual, intended solely to prevent otherwise qualified and interested persons from obtaining that level of license.

If some feel that the Element 4 written test is not sufficiently difficult to make the Amateur Extra class really "Extra," then the proper venue for such complaints is with the NCVEC and its Question Pool Committee.

How many Technician class licensees were shut out of providing necessary communications during the recent Hurricanes Katrina and Rita events due to the manual Morse proficiency requirement? How much of that emergency traffic was actually carried using Morse?

I reiterate my earlier filed comment: I urge the Commission to proceed as soon as possible in implementing the NPRM&O as written.