

I oppose the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in favor of retaining the morse code requirement for HF privileges in the amateur radio service.

I was licensed in 2002 as an extra class (call sign N4OI) and was required to demonstrate the minimal (5 wpm) morse code to obtain my HF privileges.

I have since built several low-power transmitters that operate using only morse code and have made hundreds of domestic and world-wide contacts using these "home brew" radios with battery power and portable antennas.

The morse code and CW mode provide a uniquely effective long-distance communications capability for emergency operations, which I would not have developed if there had been no morse code requirement.

It is essential to retain the current morse proficiency exam for HF privileges.

Thank you. [signed] Kenneth Stovesand - N4OI