

(NOTE): This declaration was in response to the ARRL allowing multiple choice code exams. The FISTS membership at the time (only about 300 members) voted and decided to make a statement to the ARRL expressing our displeasure of what appeared to be the lowering of the standards for the exams.

It is not a "Written In Stone" requirement for membership, it is on this web page because it is a part of FISTS history.

FISTS is not a political group. Many of our members are politically active but we do not tell members what to do in that regard. But we do hope to keep people informed so that they can make choices and let their voices be heard if the need arises.

The North American contingent of FISTS, the International Morse Preservation Society, in formal balloting of its membership approved the following declaration of purpose and policy by a 95 to 5 percent margin. FISTS is the first grass-roots organization worldwide to formally support, and call for, a restoring of exam standards of any kind.

FISTS DECLARATION OF 1992

WHEREAS, FISTS, the International Morse Preservation Society, noting with concern the general trend to ease Morse Code and theory exam requirements for Amateur Radio licensing during the past two decades;

And **WHEREAS**, noting that easing of requirements indicates abandonment of the traditional mission of amateur radio as a technical hobby pursuant to the spirit and guidelines originally set forth in Part 97.1 of the Communications Act of 1934;

And **WHEREAS**, noting that an apparent correlation exists between said easing of requirements, and loss of frequency allocation amounting to more than 100 MHz (see Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act),

And **WHEREAS**, FISTS, the International Morse Preservation Society, with a U.S. membership of 350 (and an international membership of 1600):

- * Finds the present multiple-choice option for demonstrating Morse Code proficiency to be at direct odds with preserving the Morse Code requirement for the Amateur Radio Service,
- * Considers the multiple-choice option inconsistent with the American Radio Relay League's unconditional support of the International Morse Code, as stated in minute 41 of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 1993 (QST, March 1993, p. 78),
- * Opposes continued easing of Morse Code requirements for the reasons that such easing of requirements is at direct odds with the unique nature, purpose, and scope of the Amateur Radio Service, and directly affects retention of frequency spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service as summarized in petitions RM-8259 and RM-8260 previously filed before the Federal Communications Commission.

THEREFORE, FISTS, the International Morse Preservation Society:

- * Encourages its membership who now serve as Volunteer Examiners to conduct, whenever possible, traditional Morse Code examinations in which one minute solid copy of plain-text is required for demonstrating Morse Code proficiency at a given speed,
- * Encourages all who are or might be in a position to affect the issue, now or in the future, to maintain Morse Code proficiency as an international standard for licensing in the Amateur Radio Service,
- * Urges the American Radio Relay League to support and pursue the restoring of the traditional one-minute solid copy standard as the fundamental standard for Morse Code testing for all classes of license in which there is a Morse Code requirement,
- * Requests the Federal Communications Commission to eliminate the multiple-choice option and to restore the traditional one-minute solid copy standard as the fundamental standard for Morse Code testing.