

# SARTT

## Sussex Amateur Radio Test Team

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### 1. *What do I need to bring to the Exam session?*

- a. A photo ID. Children without photo IDs may be tested providing that they can prove their identity to the satisfaction of the LARC VEC Team Leader.
- b. The original (and one copy) of any current (unexpired) amateur radio operator's license issued to you.
- c. The original (and one copy) of any document on which you will be relying to prove element credit.

These documents may include:

- i. Pre March 21, 1987 Technician license: Credit for the Element 3 exam, General written
  - ii. A letter from the FCC confirming that you previously held a specific license class for which you will be given credit for the Element 3 exams.
  - iii. An unexpired Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) indicating the credit(s) earned
- d. A positive attitude and some patience. The folks administering the exams are dedicated volunteers. They will do their best to get you tested, your exam graded, inform you of the results, and if applicable, prepare and present to you a certificate of successful completion (CSCE) of your license or upgrade.

### 2. *How much does it cost to take an amateur license exam?*

All exam sessions conducted by Laurel VEC sponsored VE Teams have been free of charge since 1984.

### 3. *Does the FCC charge an administrative fee to process my Amateur license application?*

Because you passed one or more exams that may result in a new amateur radio license or because you are renewing your amateur radio license, you are required by Congress to pay an application fee. The present application fee, established by the FCC, is \$35 USD.

If you choose to upgrade your license or to change your call sign systematically in the future, you are **not** required to pay an application fee, nor are you required to pay a fee to change your name, mailing address or contact information, whether you do that via an exam session or online through the ULS.

You have 10 calendar days to pay your fee, commencing at the time the FCC generates a file number for your application. If you do not pay your application fee within that 10-day period, your application will be dismissed, and the FCC will send you a letter via e-mail informing you that your application is dismissed without prejudice.

Without prejudice simply means you can resubmit your application.

4. ***Does the Laurel VEC and its Volunteer Examiners collect FCC administrative fees?***

The Laurel VEC and its Volunteer Examiners are **not** responsible for establishing, adjusting, or collecting application fees.

Your Volunteer Examiner Team will provide you with a document outlining the FCC fee payment process and your responsibilities within that process.

5. ***Do I need to bring my own pencils, papers, etc.?***

Although the examination team has pens, pencils, and calculators available, quantities may be limited, and you should bring your own. The rear of the answer sheet may be used as scratch paper.

6. ***Can I use a calculator?***

Yes. However, if you bring your own calculator and it is programmable its memory must be cleared to the satisfaction of the Volunteer Examiners.

7. ***How soon after I pass can I start operating?***

When you earn a new license, you can start operating as soon as your license grant and call sign is shown in the FCC's ULS license database.

When you upgrade to a higher class of license, you can begin operating with your new privileges immediately, and must identify that you are operating on temporary privileges (Temporary KT, AG or AE) pending your upgrade listing in the ULS.

8. ***Why do I have to provide my FCC Registration Number (FRN) to get my ham license?***

Federal law requires that anyone applying for or renewing any federally issued license must provide their FRN at the time of application.

Social Security Numbers will not be accepted by the FCC, Laurel VEC, or the Volunteer Examiner team.

You can obtain your FCC Registration Number in minutes by registering yourself in the FCC CORES website: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

Click the button labeled "Register".

FCC Registration Numbers and information available on FCC databases are public information.

***Applications without an FRN will not be processed!***

9. ***Do I have to pass a Morse code test to get my ham license?***

No. The Morse code exam is no longer required to earn a new or upgraded amateur radio license.

10. ***If I fail my exam, can I take another exam during the same session?***

The decision to let you take a second exam during the same test session after failing a previous attempt is up to the VE Team.

The VE team is not required to let you take another exam.

The team will make their decision based on several factors which include, but are not limited to, the number of applicants being processed, the number of VEs available, and how badly you failed the previous exam.

For example, if you missed passing by one or two questions, many teams will let you take another exam (a different version, of course).

On the other hand if you missed passing by more than a couple of questions, the VE team will most likely suggest you go home and continue studying.

11. ***I heard I can be "Grandfathered" to General. What's the story?***

In some cases a current or former licensee can earn credit for certain exam elements based on the license currently or formerly held. If you hold a Technician license that was issued prior to March 21, 1987, you have lifetime credit for Element 3, General written.

You must provide proof that you held such a license by producing the original license, reference from an approved call book, or a letter from the FCC stating that you held such a license. If you hold a current Technician license, you will be issued a CSCE giving you credit for having earned a General class license. Otherwise, you may take the Element 2 Technician exam and, if you pass, you will be issued a CSCE giving you credit for having earned a General class license.

12. ***I can't find my original license in order to claim the "Grandfathered" credit for Elements 1 and 3. How do I get the letter from the FCC?***

Write a letter to the FCC and provide as much information as possible: The call sign of the license in question, a time frame of when the license was issued, address if known, the name under which the license was issued. Provide anything that might help them find proof of you being licensed in order to claim credit for the "grandfathered elements". The address is:

FCC  
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