Q Signal Strength Scale

Readability Scale		Signal Strength Scale	
Q1	Hardly perceptible; unreadable	**R1**	Unintelligible; barely perceptible
Q2	Weak; readable now and then	**R2**	Weak signals; barely readable
Q3	Fairly good; readable but with difficulty	**R3**	Weak signals; but can be copied
Q4	Good; readable	**R4**	Fair signals
Q5	Very good; perfectly readable	**R5**	Fairly good signals
		R6	Good signals
		R7	Moderately strong signals
		R8	Strong signals
		R9	Extremely strong signals

The CM ("Circuit Merit") system

CM5 - **Completely clear, broadcast quality**. Each word is fully understood, without any
objectionable interference or noise; on FM, full quieting. Always breaks squelch (*). This designator is not always earned on FM, and seldom on SSB; as conditions must be superb.

CM4 - **Clear with a slight amount of noise and/or interference**. Each word is understood. Always breaks squelch. A common report for solid SSB voice conditions under very good conditions; the FM equivalent is a slight amount of "white noise" behind the transmission.

CM3 - **Static and/or interference is present**. Bulk of transmissions are understood without having to be repeated. Usually breaks squelch. CM3 is generally considered to be at the margin of acceptable voice communications, particularly when using squelched FM.

CM2 – **The noise level very close to signal level**. **Static and / or interference very prevalent; w**ords are missed, retransmissions are necessary. Won't break squelch reliably. CM2 is not considered not acceptable or reliable.

CM1 – **A signal is barely evident and words are unintelligible**. You can tell that someone is "there" but will not break squelch. CM1 is deemed unusable for voice communications.

CM0 - **Absolutely no signal is detectable.**