

STCW Frequently Asked Questions: STCW – Rating – Engine

1. Do I need to currently hold RFPEW to get an AS-E?

No.

2. Are non-watchstanding Able Seaman or QMEDs such as pumpmen, electricians, or machinists required to hold endorsements for Able Seafarer?

Yes, if they are serving on vessels engaged on voyages to which STCW applies.

3. I already have RFPEW. Am I qualified for an endorsement as AS-E?

Maybe. The AS-E is considered a higher endorsement than the RFPEW, however, by itself RFPEW will not qualify you for an AS-E endorsement.

- If you do not hold an endorsement as QMED, you must show at least 12 months of service as RFPEW.
- If you hold a QMED endorsement as Engineman or Deck Engine Mechanic, you can qualify for AS-E without showing sea service.
- If you hold any other QMED endorsement you must show evidence of at least 6 months of service.

See Coast Guard Policy Letter 12-07 for more details.

4. (**ADDED 07/07/14**) Does successful completion of a QMED FWTO training course qualify as special RFPEW pre-sea training? Does the requirement for our students to provide evidence of 90 days of engine room service if coupled with completion of STCW RFPEW competencies, satisfy the seagoing service of not less than two months? Our students receive total class room training of 30 days and must obtain documented engine room service of 90 days.

“Pre-sea” training applies only to a comprehensive training program that includes a period of onboard service and training. If the training ashore is not followed by a structured program of shipboard training, the training ashore is not considered pre-sea training. The shipboard training must be under an approval granted by the National Maritime Center and must follow the approved curriculum. For a conventional school that does not operate vessels, there would need to be a training agreement in place with a vessel operator under which the vessel operator would provide the program’s approved shipboard training. Simply “obtaining” sea service after some training ashore, does not constitute a training program if the service does not include structured training pursuant to an approved training curriculum. While this service may be creditable towards an STCW endorsement as RFPEW, the mariner would need to obtain 180 days of service.