Becoming a Merchant Mariner:
Steps for upgrading to a Qualified Member of Engine Department (QMED) from OS or AB Merchant Mariner Credential
(from the United States Coast Guard National Maritime Center)

There are several different ratings of QMED. It is recommended you check with your employer to determine the right QMED level required. The Seatime requirements from the USCG are all 180 -8hr days as a wiper. Approved courses can be taken in lieu of the same seatime. Types of QMEDs are:

- Electrician/Refrigerating Engineer
- Oiler
- Fireman/Watertender
- Junior Engineer
- Pumpman/Machinist
- QMED – Any Rating (must hold all 5 ratings to be endorsed)

**Option One: Self Study, USCG Exam, Seatime**

**Study**
The USCG offers exam questions, answers and study references for self study.
The Software, “Lapware” also offers monthly subscriptions for License Exam Preparation

**Exam: USCG QMED Exam**
In addition to Sea Service, and training, a practical demonstration, as well as written and oral exam is required to upgrade your MMC.
Frequency: One time only

**Application: Apply for your Ordinary Seaman Merchant Mariner Credential**
An Ordinary Seaman is the entry level rating for a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)
Your MMC is valid for five years. Upon completing training and acquiring seatime you can upgrade.

**Option Two: QMED Course or Degree, and Adjusted Seatime**

**Complete a USCG Approved Course**
Complete a QMED course at an approved school in lieu of exam and varying reduced seatime requirements.

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