



REAF Transition Frequently Asked Questions

With Resource Advisor, Fireline (REAF) officially transitioning to the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1 in January 2026, the Resource Advisor Subcommittee recognizes this change has raised several questions related to REAF qualification and training. These frequently asked questions are intended to provide clarity and support throughout the transition.

1. If I was designated as a REAF trainee by my agency or home unit after January 1, 2026, do I need to take M-280 to become fully qualified?

Yes. Individuals designated as trainees after the transition to PMS 310-1 must meet all updated position requirements, including completion of M-280, Resource Advisor, Fireline.

2. If I was designated as a REAF trainee after January 1, 2026, do I need to complete the NWCG Position Task Book (PTB) to become fully qualified?

Yes. All trainees must meet the updated requirements under PMS 310-1, including completion of the *NWCG Position Task Book for Resource Advisor, Fireline*, PMS 311-112.

3. If I was already fully qualified as a REAF prior to January 1, 2026, do I need complete a Position Task Book or take M-280?

No. Personnel who were fully qualified by their agency as of January 1, 2026, are granted historical recognition (i.e., grandfathering) for the position qualification. They are only required to maintain currency and complete the annual RT-130 and fitness requirements of the position.

4. If I was previously fully qualified but have not completed all the coursework requirements, do I need to complete them now?

No, as long as you have maintained REAF currency. However, if your currency lapses (e.g., more than five years between REAF assignments) and you revert back to trainee status, you will be required to complete any missing position requirements at that time.

5. If I was a trainee in 2025 but was not fully qualified before January 1, 2026, do I need to meet the updated requirements of the M-280 course and a completed PTB?

Yes. Individuals who were not certified as fully qualified prior to the position's inclusion in the 2026 version of the PMS 310-1, must meet the updated qualification standards, including completion of the M-280 course and a PTB. However, home unit Certifying Officials may apply NWCG alternative pathways to qualification, such as the *NWCG Standards for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)*, PMS 309, to credit prior experience and training competencies towards position certification.

6. If I was a trainee in 2025 but IQCS/IQS does not show M-280 or the PTB as requirements in 2026, how should I proceed?

You should follow the PMS 310-1 requirements regardless of how IQCS/IQS is currently displaying your status. Work with your training officer or certifying official to ensure your records are updated, that the position is tied to the NWCG catalog in the qualifications system, and that you are meeting the current standards. (Training officers should use the "Position Match" feature in IQCS/IQS and set the effective date to the current date so updated position requirements properly synchronize.)

7. Is there a minimum number of assignments required to complete a REAF Position Task Book?

No. The Position Task Book (PTB) is intended to ensure proficiency across all required competencies. The number of assignments needed will vary based on prior experience and availability of quality training assignments. Those with more experience or with high quality training assignments may complete the PTB more quickly than those new to the position.

8. There are inconsistencies between PMS 310-1 and the Federal Supplement regarding which positions maintain currency for each other. Which document should I follow?

The PMS 310-1 and Federal Supplement are separate qualifications catalogs maintained by different groups; however, for the REAF position, responders will follow the PMS 310-1. Under the PMS 310-1, maintained by NWCG, the REAF position neither provides currency¹ for nor maintains currency from any other position. For other positions listed in the Federal Supplement, which is maintained by the federal National Training Officers, note that the current 2026 online version is expected to be revised later this year. Any inconsistencies will be addressed during that update.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to your local Fire Training Officer for clarification.

¹ Currency for a position is maintained by successful performance within the given timeframes in that position or successful performance as a Trainee or Qualified in identified positions, as outlined in the PMS 310-1.