



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of Aerospace Medicine  
800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

**CERTIFIED MAIL—RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

November 15, 2010

Mr. Timothy M. Metzinger  
13120 Melville Lane  
Fairfax, VA 22033

Dear Mr. Metzinger

Thank you for your letter of October 18, 2010 to the Office of the Chief Counsel. I am responding on behalf of the Federal Air Surgeon and the Office of the Chief Counsel. You requested clarification of the reporting requirements for item 18v on the Application for Airman Medical Certification (FAA Form 8500-8).

Item 18v aims to discover a history or pattern of driving behaviors that would indicate a propensity toward risky pilot behaviors hazardous to the safety of the national air space. Driving while intoxicated by alcohol or other substances clearly applies. But other driving arrests or convictions that are severe enough to result in mandatory educational/rehabilitation programs or in suspension/revocation of driving privileges also raise concern. The situation in which you describe taking a driver education course strictly on your own volition would not be need to be reported under 18v, even if related to a traffic citation.

I hope this addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

James R. De Voll, M.D., MPH  
Manager, Medical Appeals Branch  
Medical Specialties Division  
Office of Aerospace Medicine