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October 18, 2010

Federal Aviation Administration
Office of the Chief Counsel
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Subject: Request for opinion reporting driver education class.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing you with a question concerning a section of FAA Form 8500-8 – the application for an Airman Medical Certificate.

Letter “v” of the medical history section asks for information related to motor vehicle offenses. It’s clear to me that if one is convicted of an offense involving drugs or alcohol, or has a conviction or administrative action resulting license suspension, revocation, cancellation, or attendance at an education or rehabilitation program, one must report this on the form.

The instructions on the form also state that individual traffic violations are not reported if they didn’t involve drugs or alcohol or result in attendance in an education or rehabilitation program.

What is not clear to me is if the reporting requirement applies to an Airman that chooses to take a driver education course on his own – that is, he’s NOT “sent” to this course by any court or other official body – so that he can improve his skills and build up additional “good driver points” on his record.

Example - Andrew gets a speeding ticket and loses three points on his license. Andrew's been a good driver for many years and had built up five extra "good driver" points on his record, so he still has two points left, and he wouldn't get a suspension in his state until his "score" was below -5 points. But Andrew is worried about losing his insurance discount based on his +5 score, so he decides months later to take an online driver course that will result in him being credited three points - thus getting his score back where he wants it. Does Andrew have to report this course on his medical application form?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Metzinger