

## 'GG' IS COMING

Hello, everyone. A couple of editorials ago, I described our experiences in California relating to Operation Safe Pilot (OSP) and the Social Security Administration. I know you will recall that OSP resulted in airmen being prosecuted for falsification, but you may not know that we had the opportunity to testify before Congress on the subject. During the hearing we agreed to make a couple of modifications to the FAA Form 8500-8, and since we were changing the form, we decided to make a few other modifications for clarification.

We are gearing up to introduce the new form. You will receive several additional notices before we go live, but I wanted to alert you about the changes, and to provide you with some of the reasoning behind them. Hopefully, this brief discussion will help you as we

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## The Federal Air Surgeon's Column

By Fred Tilton, MD

transition from the current FF form to the new GG form.

We have made the following changes to the form and the instructions because of OSP and the hearing:

- **New Item 18 y**

18. Medical History

Yes	No	Condition
y. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical disability benefits

- **New paragraph (f) in the privacy act statement** that states the FAA is authorized to disclose information to other Federal agencies for verification of the accuracy or completeness of the information.

The new 18 y and the new paragraph (f) were added to make it clear to everyone that closer scrutiny will take place. We realize that the new Item 18 y may cause some confusion because there are many sources of disability benefits. For example, many airmen have received disability ratings from the VA that would in no way compromise flying safety, and that would not preclude you from issuing the airman a medical certificate. As always, regardless of the medical history item to which you are referring, please make sure you provide sufficient information in block 60 to allow us to make the proper certification decisions at the Aerospace Medical Certification Division.

**Other changes unrelated to the hearing or OSP:**

- **Changes in the completion instructions** to add the words *arrest* and *arrested*

in a couple of places associated with Item 18 v. (see table below).

- **Item 57 from urinalysis to urine test.** We changed the conditions of issue on the backside of the airman medical certificate and the associated instructions. These changes were made to bring our medical certificates into compliance with ICAO standards; to align the certificate with our proposed new rule regarding the periodicity of medical examinations for airmen under the age of 40; and to eliminate any references to AMEs who are not required to use AMCS because all AMEs will be required to transmit exams after June 30.

You may also experience some technical issues associated with these changes. For example, during the transition period an airman may complete the paper FF form but arrive in your office after the GG form has gone into effect. For a brief period of time, we are planning to allow the transmission of either form. However, if you try to enter an FF exam on the GG template, you will get a prompt that says you must supply an answer to Item 18 y and an explanation in block 60. This would be problematic if the airman has already departed from your office.

We will do our best to identify these potential problems and "Murphy Proof" the system so that there are not too many of these issues to deal with. They should rapidly go away once the new GG form is fully implemented. In the meantime, I hope you will bear with us as we make the transition.

Thanks again for all you do for us. Our certification system is the best in the world, and we could not possibly do it without you.

— Fred

### Modified Item 18 v

Arrest, Conviction, and/or Administrative Action History — See Instructions Page

Yes	No	History of any <u>arrest, and/or</u> conviction(s) involving driving while intoxicated by, while impaired by, or while under the influence of alcohol or a drug; or (2) any history of any <u>arrest, and/or</u> conviction(s) or administrative action(s) involving an offense(s) which resulted in the denial, suspension, cancellation, or revocation of driving privileges or which resulted in attendance at an educational or rehabilitation program.
v. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	