

Credit Cards and Taxicabs in Cambridge Frequently Asked Questions

Does every taxicab in Cambridge accept credit cards?

Yes, effective April 1, 2015, all taxicabs must accept credit cards, using any secure device of their choosing. However, taxicabs may have a \$10.00 minimum, which may include a tip.

Can a taxicab set a minimum charge for the use of a credit card?

Yes. Section 1075 (b) of the Dodd-Frank Consumer Protection Act allows for the establishment of a minimum charge as long as such minimum dollar value does not exceed \$10.00 nor differentiate between issuers or between payment card networks. Such a minimum is expected to be clearly and conspicuously posted.

Can I be assessed a surcharge or additional charges if I choose to use a credit card?

No. A surcharge is specifically prohibited by Massachusetts General Law. Pursuant to MGL c. 140D § 28A(a)(2), *no seller in any sales transaction may impose a surcharge on a cardholder who elects to use a credit card in lieu of payments by cash, check or similar means.* In addition, a taxicab driver shall also not demand more than the fare recorded on the taximeter, including appropriately assessed taxi service related surcharges, or established flat rates by the License Commission.

Can a medallion owner, lessor, manager or radio service charge a processing fee to a Hackney Carriage Driver?

Yes. A medallion owner, lessor, manager, or radio service may charge a Hackney Carriage driver a **maximum fee of 5%** for processing credit card transactions. The medallion owner (or Lessee in a medallion –only lease) may not charge any fee for that portion of the fare due to tolls, tips, or fees. If the medallion owner (or Lessee in a medallion only lease) chooses a source of the required equipment that charges less than a 5% fee, **only that amount actually paid by the medallion owner (or Lessee in a medallion-only lease) may be charged to the Hackney Carriage driver.**

Contact the Hackney Division for more information

For further information or questions regarding this publication, please contact the Hackney Division at (617) 349-6146 or hackney@cambridgema.gov.

Updated: March 2015