

Inspector of Carriages Notice

Number: IOC-08-06

Date: October 31, 2008

Post/Mention: Indefinite



SUBJECT: Credit Card Regulations and Equipment Mounting Standards

In order to assist the implementation of mandatory Credit Card processing in Licensed Boston Hackney Carriages the Inspector of Carriages has compiled the following excerpts from various sections of Rule 403 which affect the implementation. Also below are the Inspector of Carriages standards for mounting and installation.

Excerpts from Rule 403:

Rule 403, Section 3, III, c, x.

x. Be Equipped for Credit Card Processing:

1. Effective January 1, 2009 all taxicabs shall be equipped with an electronic credit card processing capability. Such equipment shall allow the passenger to swipe the card in the rear compartment of the taxicab without handing the card to the Driver. Such equipment shall list fare, tolls, fees, and tips separately for processing purposes. Such equipment shall have the ability to electronically authorize the transaction in a timely manner. Such equipment will provide a printed receipt that includes:

- a. Boston Licensed Taxi Number,
- b. Date,
- c. Time,
- d. Charge Amount,
- e. Hackney Carriage Unit Taxi Hot Line: (617) 536-TAXI, and
- f. Hackney Carriage Unit E-mail:
Taxi.bpd@cityofboston.gov.

2. All Hackney Carriages shall have a functioning credit card reader at all times. If a Hackney Carriage does not have a functioning credit card reader, it shall be deemed unfit for service as a taxi.

***NOTE:**

Licensed Boston Hackney Carriages shall be considered in compliance with Rule 403, Section 3, III, c, x. provided the Medallion Owner (or Lessee in a Medallion-only lease) is under contract with an authorized provider to have the equipment installed by the Spring 2009 Inspection.

Rule 403, Section 4, II, g.

g. Credit Card Processing Fee: Medallion Owner (or Lessee in a Medallion-only lease) may charge a Hackney Carriage Driver a maximum 6% fee 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 airport fees. If the Medallion Owner (or Lessee in a Medallion-only lease) chooses a source of the required equipment that charges less than a 6% 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. If the owner chooses a source for the required equipment that charges more than 6%, said Medallion Owner (or Lessee in a Medallion-only lease) shall be responsible for any credit card processing fee charged that is greater than 6% of the fare.

Rule 403, Section 5, II, bb.

bb. Credit Card Payments: No Hackney Carriage Driver shall refuse to accept a credit card as payment for a fare after January 1, 2009 and no Driver may demand a fee above the fare in return for accepting a credit card payment. (Massachusetts General Laws chapter 140D sec. 28a).

NOTE : Provided the taxi is equipped as per section Rule 403, Section 3, III, c, x.

Rule 403, Section 6, I, k.

k. Credit Card Processing Fee: Effective January 1, 2009 no Boston Licensed Hackney Carriage may belong to a Radio Association or Dispatch Service which charges a processing fee for that portion of a credit card charge or voucher designated as Tolls, Airport Fee, or Tip.

Rule 403 Section 3, III, c. iv.

iv. Be outfitted with an approved taximeter as defined in writing by the Inspector of Carriages. Any such approval shall be in writing and shall be stored in the Medallion File. If a Hackney Carriage does not have a fully functioning taximeter, it shall be deemed unfit for service as a Hackney Carriage. The taximeter must meet the following requirements:

1. The taximeter must be officially sealed by the City of Boston Department of Weights and Measures.
2. All taxicabs must have taximeters that dispense printed receipts containing the following information:
 - a. Boston license taxi number;
 - b. Date-Trip number;
 - c. Times (start and stop);
 - d. Mileage traveled (distance per trip);
 - e. Extras;
 - f. Totals;
 - g. Hackney Carriage Unit Taxi Hot Line: (617) 536-TAXI; and
 - h. Hackney Carriage Unit E-mail:
Taxi.bpd@cityofboston.gov
3. All taxicabs must have a taximeter capable of gathering, storing and retrieving the following information:
 - a. Medallion number; and
 - b. Summary of service for a one (1) year period that includes:
 - i. Total trips;
 - ii. Total fare miles; and
 - iii. Total number of fares.

Inspector of Carriages Standards:

Licensed Boston Hackney Carriages shall be considered in compliance with Rule 403, Section 3, III, c, x. provided the Medallion Owner (or Lessee in a Medallion-only lease) is under contact with an authorized provider to have the equipment installed by the Spring 2009 Inspection

All Credit Card processing equipment shall be linked to the taximeter in such a manner that the fare amount recorded on the meter is automatically recorded by the credit card processing equipment.

The requirement under Rule 403, Section 3, III, c, iv, for a receipt dispensing taximeter shall be considered satisfied regardless of whether the receipt is physically printed by the taximeter or by the linked Credit Card Processing equipment, provided that the other requirements of the section with regard to information gathering are met.

Mounting:

The passenger interface of the Credit Card processing equipment shall be mounted on the partition either:

- 1) Inset into the center of the metal portion of the partition in such a way that no portion of the equipment projects more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the rear face of the partition, and the rear and sides of the inset shall be lined with metal in at least the same gauge as the rest of the metal portion of the partition.

OR

- 2) mounted on the Lexan portion of the partition behind the front passenger seat headrest in such a manner it does not interfere with the cash payment opening.

The Credit Card processing equipment and mounts shall be of sufficient durability that they cannot be dislodged, vandalized or rendered inoperable by barehanded strikes.

Captain Robert W. Ciccolo Jr.
Inspector of Carriages