

## **I. Background**

Credit and/or debit card companies may charge a fee to businesses that use their cards. The fee is usually a percentage of the amount charged by the customer. Businesses absorb these fees as a cost of doing business and the fee is not transferred to the customer. The passenger directed vehicle business is no different where fares may be paid by credit card or debit cards. Businesses that accept credit and or debit cards may benefit from additional customers who prefer this method of payment. Some customers may belong to an independent payment service that enables them to pay via the telephone or the internet through a secured service. In these cases, the payment service provider may charge a service fee to customers for use of this system having set up arrangements with businesses for use of this system.

## **II. Rule**

### Definitions

“Licensee” means a person with a valid passenger transportation licence with a Special Authorization to operate passenger directed vehicles and includes staff, operators and/or drivers employed, used or engaged by the licensee.

“Independent payment service provider” means a third party company, established to accept credit card payments by phone or over the internet, that is in no way owned, operated or managed by a licensee and no principals of the licensee have a corporate or managing interest in the independent service provider.

1. Fees for independent payment services are not required to be approved by the Board if the following conditions are met:
  - a. Use of an independent payment service is a voluntary form of payment initiated by or on behalf of a passenger;
  - b. No passenger is required by a licensee to use an independent payment service;
  - c. Licensees continue to accept cash, credit cards, TaxiSaver vouchers and any other forms of payment accepted;
  - d. Any fee for an independent payment service is determined and collected directly by the independent payment service provider as part of its terms and conditions of agreements with its customers;
  - e. No service fee is to be charged or collected by any licensee for use of an independent payment service or any other form of payment;
  - f. Any fee for an independent payment service is not related to the board approved rate charged by a licensee;
  - g. Passengers being transported by a licensee pay only the Board approved rates such as the rates posted on meters or hourly or other rates; and
  - h. Passengers using such a payment service are not given priority over other passengers for dispatch or other customer service purposes
2. Licensees are not required to accept payment through an independent payment service.
3. Licensees may advertise the availability of an independent payment service, but they must not require passengers to use such a service.

## **III. Date of Rule - December 17, 2008**