

# Processing Fees Adding Up?

## Want to Save **Money** and Increase Your **Revenue**?

**Prismpay gives you the ability to quickly and easily add convenience fees and surcharges right from within your Prismpay dashboard.**

### What is a Convenience Fee?

A convenience fee is a fee that could be assessed by the business to the consumer when using an electronic payment method for payment instead of the accepted standard forms of payment.



### What is a Surcharge Fee?

A surcharge is an additional fee that a merchant adds to a consumer's bill when he or she uses a credit card payment. A surcharge is normally a specified amount of money beyond the scope of a quoted amount for the goods and or services quoted for.



Convenience Fees and Surcharges are not unlike each other as in they are both assessed by a business to help said business recoup additional costs for offering credit cards or debit cards acceptance. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express regulate their own specific rules when applying a convenience fee or surcharge.

To break down the explanation of both fees is simple. One is a fee that can be assessed on every purchase that a credit card payment is used, which is known as a surcharge. Where a convenience fee is added, is when a nonstandard form of payment is used i.e., credit card payments.

Your payment processing company should be able to explain and inform you of the rules and regulations for your business and the use of these types of fees, as well as your specific areas rules and regulations.

## Rules and Regulations

Debit cards and prepaid debit cards cannot have surcharges added for transactions according to Mastercard and Visa. While each card network has their own specific rules on charging convenience fees, we have found that Discover doesn't specify any particular rules expect for keeping fees the same across the board for all credit cards. Here is an overview of each card networks policy restrictions for using convenience fees:

<b>Visa</b>	All nonstandard forms of payments can have convenience fees added. For some states the only restriction is for income taxes.
<b>Mastercard</b>	Education institutes and Government agencies can charge convenience fees on credit cards. But it is only a select few that are able to do so.
<b>American Express</b>	Credit card convenience fees can only be charged by utility companies, some rental establishments, government agencies and educational institutions.
<b>Discover</b>	Merchants can only charge Discover cardholders a convenience fees if the same charges are assessed on other credit cards from all issuers.

## States Where Surcharges are Prohibited

As of writing this article there are only 5 states in which it is illegal to charge convenience fees or surcharges to your consumers credit card payments. Those states include:

- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Kansas
- Maine
- Massachusetts

Even though it is illegal to charge fees to consumers in these states, it is not illegal for government agencies to impose surcharges on credit card payments.

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## Quick & Easy to Implement

Simply login to Prismpay and start implementing convenience fees and or surcharges quickly and easily right within the Prismpay user interface.

## Not Using Prismpay for Your Payment Gateway?

Prismpay is your one stop support for all of your payments acceptance needs. Call, email or go online to request a full demo of how Prismpay can benefit your business.