

Check your Credit or Debit Card Receipt at Check Out

In an effort to prevent would-be identity thieves from obtaining your credit and debit card information, Congress passed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA or FACT Act) in December 2003.

An amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, FACTA requires retailers on electronically printed receipts provided to customers to shorten or “truncate” credit and debit card numbers to no more than the last five digits. Card expiration dates must be omitted, as well.

SAMPLE RECEIPT

555 S Anystreet
Austin, TX 78745
555-555-5555

STORE: 0003 REGISTER: 001
CASHIER: KATIE
ASSOCIATE: 000000

CUSTOMER RECEIPT COPY

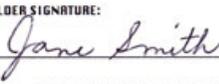
ORIGINAL TRANSACTION INFORMATION
STORE : 00032
REGISTER : 001
DATE : 12/31/2005
NUMBER : 5194

259.99

SUBTOTAL 259.99
SALES TAX 21.45
TOTAL 281.44

AMOUNT TENDERED
Visa 281.44
ACCT: *****1234
EXP: *****
APPROVAL: 99999
CARDHOLDER: JANE SMITH
TOTAL PAYMENT 281.44

Transaction: 52858 1/8/2006 2:40 PM

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE:


THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US
WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

A receipt that truncates the credit card number and omits the expiration date could look like this:

ACCT: ***12345**
EXP: ****

The law does not apply to handwritten receipts or those created by an imprint or copy of the card. Penalties for failure to comply with the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions provision can be harsh.

A merchant who willfully fails to comply with these requirements is liable in an amount equal to the sum of actual damages of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each violation, punitive damages, and attorney fees and costs.

A merchant that negligently fails to comply is liable in an amount equal to the sum of actual damages sustained and attorney fees and costs.

Consumers should check their receipts for FACTA violations. If you find a violation, inform the merchant, and remind them of their obligations to protect your information. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by calling (877) FTC-HELP/ (877) 382-4357 or go online at file a complaint. You may also choose to contact an attorney to help determine if you should file a lawsuit against the merchant, as you may be eligible to be compensated for damages.

For more information about your rights under Fair Credit Reporting Act and FACTA, visit the following website:
www.lawlib.state.ma.us/subject/about/identitytheft.html.

For additional information about ways to protect your identity, visit the Consumer Affairs website at Identity Theft.