

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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15 Amp Duplex Receptacles on 20 Amp Circuits

Code: 2014 Electrical Code

Date: March 16, 2017

Section: 210.21(B)(3)

Question:

Is a duplex receptacle considered one receptacle or two? May it be installed on a 20 ampere circuit if rated at a maximum 15 amperes?

Answer:

A duplex receptacle is two receptacles and is not a single receptacle. Therefore, the rules that apply to single outlets on individual branch circuits do not apply. A 15 ampere duplex receptacle may be installed on an individual branch circuit rated at 20 amperes per Table 210.21(B)(3).