

**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:** 2005 Electrical Code

**Date:** March 1, 2005

**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).