

Portable dimmers are not permanently installed which is why duplex Edison's may be allowed on portable devices. The intent of the code is to prevent someone from mistaking a dimmed receptacle for a standard circuit. If negligence is involved, the engineer and installer could be held liable for any device that gets plugged into a dimmed circuit and ruined. The following NEC excerpt is pretty clear.

406.3(F) 2002

"(F) No interchangeable Types. Receptacles connected to circuits that have different voltages, frequencies, or types of current (ac or dc) on the same premises shall be of such design that the attachment plugs used on these circuits are not interchangeable."

Also, 404.14(E) 2002 is sometimes cited but this does not apply to commercial spaces or theaters.

"(E) Dimmer Switches. General-use dimmer switches shall be used only to control permanently installed incandescent luminaries (lighting fixtures) unless listed for the control of other loads and installed accordingly."