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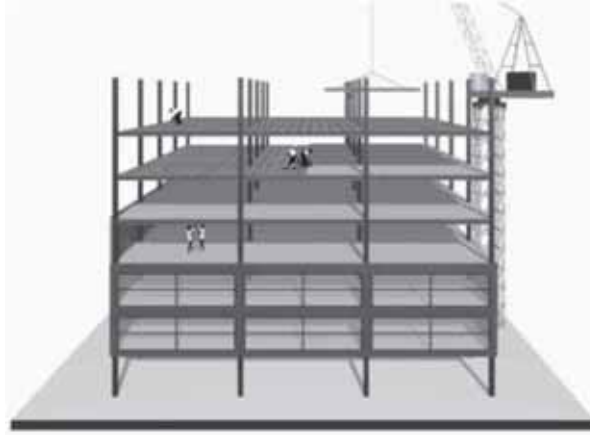


**Specification of threaded
bar in structural applications**



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE

STEEL CONSTRUCTION—EDITORIAL



This issue of *Steel Construction* contains a technical paper on threaded bar in structural applications prepared for the Australian Steel Institute by Prof. Saman Fernando from the Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure, Swinburne University of Technology. Its aim is to provide direction to structural engineers on the mechanical and dimensional properties of threaded bars.

Prof. Fernando has a BSc Eng (Hon) from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and a PhD in Aerodynamics and Thermodynamics from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Prof. Fernando is an internationally recognised fastener expert and innovator through his extensive research and publications in fastener and manufacturing engineering. He has authored over twenty patented products and processes. Before being appointed to Swinburne University of Technology in 2012, he worked as Engineering, Research, Development and Innovations Manager for Ajax Engineered Fasteners.

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SPECIFICATION OF THREADED BAR IN STRUCTURAL APPLICATIONS

by

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Summary

This technical note provides the information necessary for determining the mechanical and dimensional properties of threaded bars as well as the associated nuts and washers for structural applications and sets out the specific provisions that are required for ensuring that product is compliant with the nominated Standards.

1 INTRODUCTION

Threaded bar is becoming popular in the structural engineering industry. It is used as replacement for long bolts as well as concrete anchors. It is also known as thread bar, threaded rod, Sampson rod or All-thread. This product is not covered under Australian Standard AS 1252, 'High strength steel bolts with associated nuts and washers for structural engineering'. There is no clear direction to structural engineers on the mechanical and dimensional properties of threaded bars.

This technical note provides necessary information in order to determine the properties of threaded bars. As these may be used in safety critical applications and can be designed to carry high loads they should be selected and specified with sufficient understanding as for structural bolt and nut assemblies.

This technical note covers threaded bars and associated nuts and washers for structural engineering applications. However, it is limited to parts made from carbon/alloy steel and does not cover stainless steel.

2 IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

Threaded bar in its own right is not an ideal structural member. The threads act as notches and when subject to bending, material failure could occur at a lower load than that for a smooth bar due to stress concentrations associated with thread roots. The same reason makes threaded bars not suitable for dynamic load applications where they could be subject to premature fatigue failure. Furthermore, when the strength of the bar increases, its susceptibility to brittle fracture and fatigue failure also increases.

It is common practice that threaded bars are bent when used for anchorage into concrete. If the bar is of high tensile class and such bending is done on the hardened bar, micro-cracks may occur that could lead to premature failures. If the bending is done on an annealed threaded bar which is later heat-treated to achieve the necessary tensile properties this problem may be avoided. The creation of cracks is related to the radius of curvature. If the radius of curvature is large enough, such cracks may be avoided as a result of reduced stresses due to bending. The limiting radius of curvature is related to the bar strength as well as bar diameter.

Alternatively, there are threaded bars available in the market which are threaded at either end with the mid-section maintained unthreaded at the pitch diameter of the thread. If bending is required, it could be done in this unthreaded zone. It is better to avoid cold bending of even PC4.6 thread bars as it is very difficult to control the formation of micro-cracks.

High tensile threaded bars should not be heated beyond the transition temperature (in the order of 500°C) as it would reduce its strength due to annealing. Therefore welding should be totally avoided on high tensile threaded bars unless they are reheat-treated after welding.

High tensile threaded bars, Property Class 10.9 (PC10.9) and higher may also be subject to Stress Corrosion Cracking (SCC) and Hydrogen Embrittlement (HE). Therefore, the bar should not come in contact with acids and other acid forming substances that could increase the risk of SCC and HE. Generally, if the hardness is less than 34 HRC, such threaded bars are free from these issues. If the threaded bar goes through acid wash during its production, it should undergo an appropriate Hydrogen Embrittlement Relieve

(HER) process within a few minutes of coming in contact with acids. The specifier should ask for an HER certificate when purchasing plated threaded bars that are PC10.9 or higher.

There are certain proprietary coatings that may not use acid wash in the cleaning process. These coatings may not introduce HE on high tensile threaded rods. However, the performance of these coatings in terms of both the risk of HE and their corrosion protection should be verified by the user under field conditions prior to choosing these alternative coatings.

Galvanized threaded bar is made to standard thread tolerances and hot-dip galvanized (HDG) afterwards. Therefore, the thread of the galvanized threaded bar is larger in dimension than the standard uncoated threaded bar due to the coating thickness. For HDG threaded bars, oversize nuts manufactured to AS 1252 or EN 14399-3 could be used. As per these Standards it is necessary to use structural washers made to the same Standard with corresponding structural nuts.

Similar to bolts, threaded bars are best used in direct tension in a joint where a sufficient clamp force is provided. This clamping force helps reduce the share of the applied load on the threaded bar. Similar guidelines that are used in clamped bolted joints are therefore relevant to threaded bar.

Similar to tension bearing (TB) and tension friction (TF) bolted joints, clamp force is essential for the proper performance of PC8.8 and higher threaded bar joints intended for a similar function.

As the effective length of the threaded bar is not known accurately, the part-turn method in AS 4100 is not directly applicable to tightening joints with threaded bars. A suitable part-turn method may be devised through an appropriate calibration experiment on case by case basis. Unlike with bolts, when using part-turn method with threaded bars it should be kept in mind that either nut may rotate with respect to the bar, and therefore adequate precautions should be taken to account for these effects. Markings should be made on both ends and a combined rotation effect to be taken if both nuts rotate in the tightening process.

Alternatively, if the coating and thread dimensions of the threaded bars are well controlled, their friction characteristics become consistent. Then a laboratory test may provide a torque value that can be used with a calibrated batch of threaded bars. This has to be determined with sufficient data through a statistical analysis. EN 14399-2 specifies a test procedure incorporating both bolt washer and nut as an assembly in order to verify their torque vs tension characteristics. If the products are tested and supplied under such Standards, torque may be used as a tightening method as per the recommendations of the said Standard.

As AS 4100 does not allow torque as a tightening method, it is the responsibility of the engineer to conduct the necessary laboratory/field tests or to validate results produced under EN 14399-2, in order to substantiate the torque value on a case by case basis, as well as to assure that conditions simulated in the torque tests are maintained in the field application.

In accordance with AS 4100, other calibrated direct tension indicating (DTI) devices may be used for the tightening of the joints. In such cases the engineer should have all necessary supporting data and be assured of the performance of the used device.

When using part-turn method or DTIs, appropriate thread lubricants may be used to ease the tightening process. When using thread lubricants, the manufacturer's guidelines must be observed. If calibrated torque is used as the tightening method, then the thread conditions must be similar to the condition tested in the calibration process. The AS 4100 part-turn method should not be used in combination with DTIs on the same fastener. Torque method may be used in combination with DTIs.

3 IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

3.1 Relevant Standards

There are several Standards that are related to threaded bars. In Australia AS 2528-1982 is considered the most relevant to this product range. In Europe it is DIN 976-1 (2002-12) and in the USA it is ASTM A193/A193M. Some parts of EN 14399-3, EN 14399-5 and EN 14399-6 may also be applicable to this product range. The previous European Standard DIN 975 is now obsolete.

AS 2528 covers different types of stud bolts mainly for flanges and other high and low temperature applications, however, this only covers Property Classes PC4.6, PC8.8 and PC8.8. PC8.8 refers to bars manufactured out of lower carbon alloy steels. In addition, current industry uses Property Classes PC5.6 and PC5.8. For simplicity **only the information relevant to typical structural applications using these classes of materials** are presented in this technical note. While most of the information on dimensions,

material properties and test methods are from AS 1252, AS 4291.1 and/or ISO 898-1, where necessary, the relevant information from AS 2528 is also used. For all other requirements DIN 976-1 (2002-12) is used. Therefore, this technical note is generally in line with most applicable national and international standards.

The following sections provide requirements for metric series coarse thread threaded bars (threaded continuously), washers and nuts for diameters given in AS 1252 (M16, M20, (M22), M24, (M27), M30, M36) mainly intended for structural engineering applications in the temperature range -50°C to +300°C. Only Property Classes PC4.6, PC4.8, PC5.6, PC5.8, PC8.8 and PC8.8 are covered by this document.

3.2 Screw thread

Screw thread should be made in accordance with AS 1275/AS 1721 ISO coarse thread pitch series with a tolerance class of 6g. The thread pitch for each size is fixed and determined by this Standard. The thread should be formed by thread rolling (preferred) or thread cutting. Rolling after heat treatment is advisable if the thread is subject to significant dynamic (fatigue) loads. Cut thread may not perform as well as rolled thread in dynamic load applications.

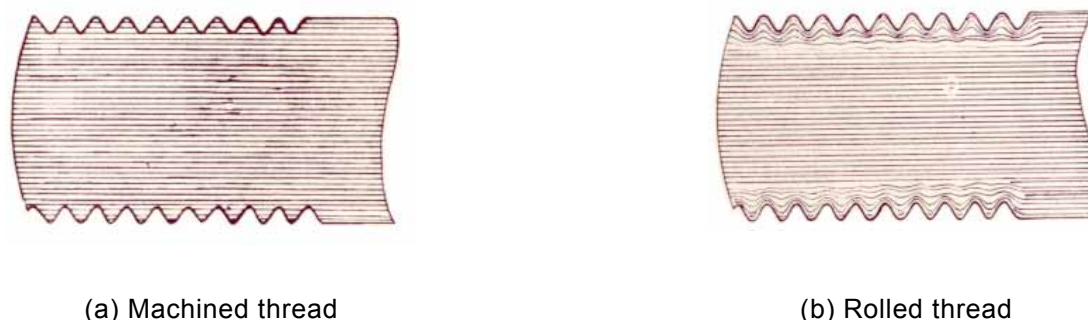


FIGURE 1 COMPARISON OF MACROSTRUCTURES OF MACHINED AND ROLLED THREADS

As shown in Figure 1(a), macrostructure of a machined thread displays the grain flow that has been cut at the thread profile. This can be contrasted with a rolled thread (Figure 1(b)) where a continuous grain flow around the thread profile is shown. This effect, in combination with the cold working at the root of the thread, has been shown to significantly improve the fatigue and impact resistance of the rolled thread compared to the machined thread.

3.3 Shape and dimensions

The end of threaded bars should be chamfered at 45° to a depth exceeding the depth of the thread or as rolled condition as per DIN EN ISO 4753 to ensure easy engagement of the nut.

Limit deviations and geometrical tolerances should be as specified in Product Grade A of DIN EN ISO 4759-1. An extract of the applicable length tolerances are shown in the Table 1 below.

TABLE 1
LENGTH TOLERANCES FOR THREADED BAR

Length (mm)	Tolerance (mm)
35-50	+/- 0.5
55-80	+/- 0.6
85-120	+/- 0.7
130-180	+/- 0.8
190-240	+/- 0.925
260-300	+/- 1.05
320-400	+/- 01.15
420-500	+/- 01.25
1000-3000	+/- 4.5

3.4 Surface finish

The surface should be clean and free from cracks or thread laps that are detrimental to their performance. Small thread laps on the thread crests are acceptable on rolled thread. Threaded bars may be supplied without a coating, or hot-dip galvanized (HDG) or electroplated coating. If HDG coating or the electroplated coating is applied, it should be done in accordance with the relevant Standard as outlined in Table 2. Any other coatings may be used under special agreement between the supplier and the customer. These coatings should be checked for suitability for the exact field application. Some of the coatings are notorious for resulting in pitting corrosion if chloride ions are present in the atmosphere. Such pitting corrosion could lead to subsequent HE or SCC on PC10.9 rods due to acid build up in the pits.

TABLE 2
RELEVANT SURFACE FINISH STANDARDS FOR THREADED BAR

Surface finish	Relevant Standard
As processed	DIN 267-2 applies with regard to surface roughness
Electro-plating	AS 1897 or DIN EN ISO 4042
Zn flake coatings	DIN EN ISO 10683
Hot-dip galvanizing (HDG)	AS 1214 or DIN 267-10 or EN/ISO 10684

3.5 Chemical composition

The chemical composition of steel alloys used for manufacturing threaded bars should be within the limits given in Table 3.

TABLE 3
CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF STEEL ALLOYS USED FOR MANUFACTURING THREADED BAR

Property Class	Material and heat treatment	Chemical composition %					Tempering temperature °C
		Carbon		Phosphorus	Sulphur	Boron	
		Min	Max	Max	Max	Max	
4.6	Carbon steel or carbon steel with additives	–	0.55	0.05	0.06	N/A	–
4.8		–	0.55	0.05	0.06	N/A	–
5.6		0.13	0.55	0.05	0.06	N/A	–
5.8		–	0.55	0.05	0.06	N/A	–
8.8	Low carbon steel with alloying elements (B, Mn, Cr etc.) quenched and tempered	0.15	0.40	0.025	0.025	0.003	425
8.8	Carbon steel quenched and tempered	0.25	0.55	0.025	0.025	N/A	450 (<M20) 425

Free cutting steels that are designed for machining purposes can be used only for PC4.6 and PC5.8 products. For free cutting steels the following limits apply: sulphur 0.35% max, phosphorous 0.11% max, lead 0.35% max. These products should not be used in temperatures above 200°C.

Some heat treatment may be required to achieve the required ductility of PC4.6 and PC5.6.

3.6 Mechanical properties

Mechanical properties for threaded bar are given in Table 4.

TABLE 4
MECHANICAL PROPERTIES FOR THREADED BAR

Mechanical property			Property Class					
			4.6	4.8	5.6	5.8	8.8 and 8.8	
							≤ M16	> M16
Tensile strength, R _m	Nom	MPa	400	400	500	500	800	800
	Min	MPa	400	420	500	520	800	830
Yield stress, R _{eL}	Nom	MPa	240	–	300	–	–	–
	Min	MPa	240	–	300	–	–	–
Stress under proof load, S _p	S _p /R _{p0.2}		0.94	0.91	0.93	0.90	0.91	0.91
	Min	MPa	225	310	280	380	580	600
Stress at permanent set limit, R _{p0.2}	Nom	MPa	–	–	–	–	640	640
	Min	MPa	–	–	–	–	640	660
Brinell hardness	Min	HB	114	124	147	152	230	242
	Max	HB	209	209	209	209	306	319
Vickers hardness	Min	HV	120	130	155	160	242	255
	Max	HV	220	220	220	220	323	336
Rockwell hardness	Min	HR	B 67	B 71	B 79	B 82	C 21	C 23
	Max	HR	B 95	B 95	B 95	B 95	C 33	C 34
Elongation after fracture, A	Min	%	22	–	20	–	12	12
Impact strength @ –20°C (K _v – Charpy V)	Min	J	–	–	27	–	27	27
Minimum height of non-carburized thread zone, h _d			–	–	–	–	0.5 thread height, h _s	
Maximum depth of complete decarburization			–	–	–	–	0.015 mm	

3.7 Tensile breaking and proof loads

Minimum tensile breaking and proof loads for metric threaded bars are given in Table 5.

TABLE 5
MINIMUM TENSILE BREAKING AND PROOF LOAD FOR METRIC THREADED BAR

Nominal diameter, D (mm)	Thread pitch p (mm)	Minor dia. area A _c (mm ²)	Tensile stress area, A _s (mm ²)	Breaking load (kN)					Proof load (kN)				
				Property Class					Property Class				
				4.6	4.8	5.6	5.8	8.8 and 8.8	4.6	4.8	5.6	5.8	8.8 and 8.8
16	2.0	138	157	62.8	65.9	78.5	81.6	125	35.3	48.7	44	59.7	91
20	2.5	217	245	98	103	122	127	203	55.1	76	68.6	93.1	147
(22)	2.5	272	303	121	127	152	158	252	68.2	93.9	84.8	115	182
24	3.0	313	353	141	148	176	184	293	79.4	109	98.8	134	212
(27)	3.0	414	459	184	193	230	239	381	103	142	128	174	275
30	3.5	503	561	224	236	280	292	466	126	174	157	213	337
36	4.0	738	817	327	343	408	425	678	184	253	229	310	490

3.8 Shear capacities of threaded bars

As threaded fasteners are meant for loading in tension, no requirements on the shear capacity of the bolts or threaded bars are specified in the relevant Standards except in AS 1559 for tower bolts. Therefore, no tests are conducted and no guarantees are given for the shear capacity of a structural bolt or a threaded bar by the manufacturer.

If the threaded bars need to be used in shear applications, guidance may be sought from other Standards such as AS 4100. This Standard uses the factor of 0.62 on the tensile capacity for the calculation of the shear capacity of a bolt. Using the same factor, the minimum breaking shear capacity of a certain size and property class thread bar (V_{fu}) may be calculated using the formula:

$$V_{fu} = 0.62 * R_m * A_c$$

where A_c is the minor diameter area of the thread as shown in Table 5, and R_m is the minimum ultimate tensile stress of the bolt as shown in Table 4.

Now by multiplying the breaking loads given in Table 5 by the factor of $0.62 * A_c / A_s$ the corresponding minimum breaking single shear capacities may be estimated. Similarly, by multiplying the proof loads given in Table 5 by the factor of $0.62 * A_c / A_s$ the corresponding proof single shear capacities may be estimated.

3.9 Acceptance tests for mechanical properties and inspection

The following minimum tests as shown in Table 6 are required for acceptance of threaded bars.

TABLE 6
ACCEPTANCE TESTS FOR THREADED BAR

Mechanical property	Test method	Test for Property Class	
		4.6, 4.8, 5.6, 5.8	8.8 and 8.8
Extension under proof load	Proof load test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	Required	Required
Breaking load	Breaking load (wedge*) test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	Required	Required
Decarburization	Decarburization test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	–	Required

*- Threaded wedge with thread tolerance 4H is used. Wedge angle M16, 6°, all other sizes 4°.

For threaded bar with diameter greater than M24, the additional acceptance tests as shown in Table 7 are recommended. For these tests, machined test pieces have to be used.

Acceptance inspection of this product should be done in accordance with DIN EN ISO 3269.

TABLE 7
ACCEPTANCE TESTS FOR THREADED BAR >M24

Mechanical property	Test method	Test for Property Class	
		4.6, 4.8, 5.6, 5.8	8.8 and 8.8
Tensile strength, R_m	Tensile test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	Required	Required
Yield stress, R_{eL}	Tensile test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	Required	–
Stress at permanent set limit, $R_{p,0.2}$	Tensile test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	–	Required
% Elongation after fracture, A	Tensile test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	Required	Required
Impact strength	Impact test ISO 898-1/AS4291.1	–	Required

3.10 Marking

Threaded bars greater than diameter M5 should be marked at one end with the symbol denoting the property class except for threaded bars of PC4.8. The 'dot' in property class may be omitted (e.g. 88 is acceptable for PC8.8). Alternatively, clock markings as per ISO 898-1 may also be used. Marking of the manufacturer symbol is not required.

The colour coding as shown in Table 8 is also acceptable. The markings should not impair proper use of the threaded bars.

TABLE 8
COLOUR CODING FOR STRENGTH IDENTIFICATION OF THREADED BAR

Property Class	Marking
PC4.6, 4.8	Not required
PC5.6	Brown, RAL 8015
PC5.8	Blue , RAL 5010
PC8.8	Yellow, RAL 1023
PC10.9	White, RAL 1013
PC12.9	Black, RAL 9017

In addition, the following information should be marked on the packaging:

- a) General product description – threaded bar
- b) The letter M indicating ISO metric coarse pitch thread
- c) The nominal diameter in mm
- d) The nominal length in mm
- e) Property class
- f) Coating applied (if present)

If the threaded bars are not marked, a suitable sample test is required to determine its property class. Also a verification of the chemical composition of the material is required in order to ascertain that it meets the specification in Table 3.

4 METRIC NUTS FOR THREADED BARS

There are various forms and classes of nuts available in the market that may fit the same size threaded bar. Therefore it is necessary to understand the differences between these nuts in order to select the appropriate nut.

The main Australian Standard specifying the geometry of nuts is AS 1112 which has four parts. Other than this Standard, AS 1252 also specifies a special nut for structural engineering applications. Table 9 summarizes the details of these Standards for steel nuts.

TABLE 9

A SUMMARY OF DIFFERENT NUT SPECIFICATIONS

	AS 1112.1/ ISO 4032	AS 1112.2/ ISO 4033	AS 1112.3/ ISO 4034	AS 1112.4/ ISO 4035	AS 1252	EN 14399-3
Title	ISO metric hexagon nuts: Style 1 – Product Grades A and B	ISO metric hexagon nuts: Style 2 – Product Grades A and B	ISO metric hexagon nuts: Product Grade C	ISO metric hexagon nuts: chamfered thin nuts – Product Grades A and B	High strength steel bolts with associated nuts and washers for structural engineering	High strength structural bolting assemblies for pre-loading – Part 3: System HR – Hexagon bolt and nut assemblies
Range covered	M1.6 to M64 d ≤ M16 Product Grade A. d > M16 Product Grade B.	M5 to M36 d ≤ M16 Product Grade A. d > M16 Product Grade B.	M5 to M64 Product Grade C.	M1.6 to M64 d ≤ M16 Product Grade A. d > M16 Product Grade B.	M16 to M36 Product grade designation does not apply.	M 12 to M36 Product grade designation does not apply.
Nominal nut thickness	Approximately 0.8 of d	Approximately 0.9 of d		Approximately 0.5 of d	Approximately d	Approximately 0.8 of d
Thread tolerance	6H	6H	7H	6H	6H – uncoated nut 6H + 0.4 – AS1214 Gal nut	6H – uncoated nut 6AZ – Gal nut
Property Class^a	M39 < d < M3 as agreed M3 ≤ d ≤ M39 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12	8, 9 and 12	d ≤ M16; 5 M16 < d ≤ M39; 4, 5 d > M39 as agreed	M39 < d < M3 as agreed M3 ≤ d ≤ M39 04, 05	8 proof loads as per AS 1252	8 and 10 proof loads as per EN 14399-3
Finish and coating	Electroplated coatings AS 1897 or as agreed, hot-dip galvanized coatings AS 1214/EN 10684. Limits for surface discontinuities ISO 6157.2/EN 493					
Acceptability	Procedure of ISO 3269					
General comments	Most widely used nut in all mechanical applications. Thinner than Style 2 nut and AS 1252 nut but has a proof load sufficiently larger than the UTS of the bolt.	Thicker nut and has a proof load lower than Style 1 but still larger than the UTS of the bolt.	Has a wider tolerance on dimensions and are available only in Class 4 and 5. Proof load is slightly smaller than that of Product Grade A and B.	Thin nuts should not be high strength. They are only used as locknuts. Proof load is substantially lower than corresponding bolt UTS.	Larger nut in both height and width. Has a larger proof load than AS 1112. Galvanized nut has even larger proof load than the plain nut.	Nut has a wider across flats dimension similar to AS 1252 but the same height as the AS 1112.1 nut. Proof load lies between AS 1112.1 and AS 1252.

NOTE:

a - Other property classes refer to ISO 878.2.

4.1 Chemical composition for nuts

Nuts should be manufactured with steel conforming to the chemical composition as shown in Table 10.

TABLE 10
CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF STEELS SUITABLE FOR MANUFACTURING NUTS FOR THREADED BAR

Property Class		Chemical composition limits %			
		C	Mn	P	S
		max	min	max	max
4 ^a , 5 ^a , 6 ^a	–	0.50	-	0.060	0.150
8, 9	04	0.58	0.25	0.060	0.150
10 ^b	05	0.58	0.30	0.048	0.058
12 ^b	–	0.58	0.45	0.048	0.058

NOTES:

a – Nuts of these property classes may be made from free cutting steels unless otherwise agreed. In such cases the maximum of phosphorous 0.11%, sulphur 0.34% and lead 0.35% should be used.

b – Alloying elements may be added to achieve necessary mechanical properties.

4.2 Mechanical properties of nuts

4.2.1 Specified proof loads

Table 11 provides the proof loads for various coarse thread nuts in the diameter range M16 – M36 covered in AS 1252. These nuts are compatible with coarse thread, threaded bars.

TABLE 11
PROOF LOADS FOR VARIOUS COARSE THREAD NUTS

PC	Proof load (kN)*										
	8	10	4	5	8	10	8	9	12	AS 1252 Structural	
	EN 14399-3		Style 1 – AS 1112.1				Style 2 – AS 1112.2			HDG	Other
M16	157.0	182.1	80.0	96.0	138.0	165.0	–	149.0	186.0	183.0	168.0
M18	192.0	222.7	98.0	121.0	177.0	204.0	171.0	177.0	231.0	224.0	207.0
M20	245.0	284.2	125.0	154.0	225.0	259.0	218.0	225.0	294.0	285.0	263.0
M22	303.0	351.2	155.0	191.0	279.0	322.0	270.0	279.0	364.0	353.0	326.0
M24	353.0	409.5	180.0	222.0	324.0	374.0	314.0	324.0	423.0	411.0	379.0
M27	459.0	532.4	234.0	289.0	423.0	487.0	409.0	423.0	551.0	535.0	494.0
M30	561.0	650.8	286.0	353.0	516.0	594.0	499.0	516.0	673.0	653.0	603.0
M33	–	–	354.0	437.0	638.0	735.0	617.0	638.0	832.0	808.0	746.0
M36	817.0	947.7	417.0	515.0	751.0	866.0	727.0	751.0	980.0	951.0	878.0

NOTE:

*- Rounded off.

In general, the nuts used for structural engineering purposes have a proof load larger than that given in other Standards. As in most cases, structural nuts are tightened above the proof load of the bolt, this is necessary. However, AS 1252 specifies nut proof loads higher than the EN counterpart especially for HDG nuts. This is due to AS 1252 allowing larger oversize thread tapping tolerances than EN, as at the time of AS 1252, the local galvanizing industry was not developed enough to control the coating thickness. Since then, new technologies have been developed to tightly control the thickness of the galvanized coating. As such, the thread tolerance has been reduced in the later international standards.

It should be noted that even though EN nuts have a proof load lower than that of AS 1252 nuts, use of EN nuts will not compromise the joint integrity as the bolt will fail before reaching these proof load values.

4.2.2 Hardness

The proof load test is the ultimate deciding test for nuts if all geometric limitations are satisfied (i.e. Go/No go thread gauges and other critical dimensions). As the proof load test is quite cumbersome once proven, a hardness test may be used as a screening test in terms of determining the mechanical properties of a nut. Table 12 provides the Vickers Hardness (HV) specified for each type of nut. If the nuts are made in this hardness range and if all the other geometric and surface conditions are met then they will provide the adequate proof load. However, in case of a conflict, the hardness test is not a final test for the mechanical properties of a nut.

TABLE 12
VICKERS HARDNESS (HV) SPECIFIED FOR EACH TYPE OF NUT

PC	Vickers Hardness (HV)										
	8	10	4	5	8	10	8	9	12	AS 1252 Structural	
	EN 14399-3		Style 1 – AS1112.1				Style 2 – AS1112.2			HDG	Other
M16 –M36	EN 20898-2		117-302	146-302	233-353	272-353	180-302	188-302	272-353	260-353	188-353

Some practitioners weld hardened nuts in certain applications. This practice should be avoided as the material properties of a hardened nut would alter if the nut is heated beyond the transition temperature of the material which is in the order of 520°C.

4.3 Acceptance tests for mechanical properties and inspection

The tests shown in Table 13 are required for acceptance of nuts for threaded bars.

TABLE 13
ACCEPTANCE TESTS FOR NUTS

Mechanical property	Test method	Applicability
Proof load	Proof load test ISO 898-1/AS 4291.1	Required*
Hardness	Hardness test ISO 898-1/AS 4291.1	Optional
Decarburization	Decarburization test ISO 898-1/AS 4291.1	Optional

NOTE:

* - May be replaced by a hardness test if all geometric and surface properties are met

In addition to these tests, there are some proprietary Standards that are devised by various companies and government authorities (e.g. TMR Qld. MRTS 78, RMS NSW, RMS B240) that may require assembly tests to full tightening (1.05 of proof load). These tests follow the guidelines of EN 14399-2 for assembly testing. When these tests are required in the purchase agreement, it is very important to select the appropriate nuts made to AS 1252/EN 14399-3, as some nuts made to AS 1112 may not consistently pass this test.

AS 1252 and AS 1112 bolts will not satisfy the torque vs tension relationship specified in the European Standard EN 14399-2 (k-factor values). If this requirement needs to be met, special friction controlled coatings may be required on threaded rod, the washer and the nut.

Acceptance inspection of this product should be done in accordance with DIN EN ISO 3269.

4.4 Markings

All nuts equal to or greater than M5 should be marked with the designation system specified in the relevant Standard. For AS 1112 nuts, the relevant Standard is ISO 898.2/AS 4291.2 and for structural nuts, it is AS 1252/EN 14399-3.

4.5 Rule of thumb for selection of nuts for threaded bars

It is good practice that for structural applications using PC8.8 galvanized threaded bars, galvanized nuts made to AS 1252/EN 14399-3 should be used. For uncoated threaded rod, AS 1252/EN 14399-3 uncoated nuts should be used.

For Property Class 4.6, 4.8, 5.6, 5.8 threaded bars, a nut of Class 5 made to AS 1112 should be used. For HDG threaded bar, a nut made to AS 1252/EN 14399-3 galvanized thread may be used. It is always acceptable to use a class equal or higher than the bolt property class for the nut (e.g. for a PC4.8 bolt, a nut of Class 4 or higher or for a PC8.8 bolt, a nut of Class 8 or higher may be used).

5 FLAT WASHERS

5.1 Mechanical properties for washers

Hardened flat washers made in accordance with AS 1252 should be used with AS 1252 nuts on high tensile threaded bars used for structural engineering applications. Hardness values for different types of washers are given in Table 14. If EN 14399-3 nuts are used, the corresponding washers from the same Standard should be used.

TABLE 14
HARDNESS SPECIFICATION FOR WASHERS FOR THREADED BAR

Washer type	Hardness range (HV)
HDG AS 1252 washer	270 – 445
Other than HDG AS 1252 washer	345 – 445
EN 14399-5, EN 14399-6	300 – 370
ASTM F436 – Plain and plated	370 – 445
ASTM F436 – HDG	270 – 445
Class HV 140 (ISO 7089)	140 – 200
Class HV 200 (ISO 7089)	200 – 300
Class HV 300 (ISO 7089/ISO 7415)	>300

Plain steel flat washers (DIN 7989A, ISO 7089, AS 1237) may be used with Property Class 4.6, 4.8, 5.6 and 5.8 threaded bars. Hardened steel flat washers (DIN 6340, ISO 7089, ISO 7415 Class HV 300) may also be used with PC8.8 threaded bars. It is important to use a washer that is harder than the nut in all applications.

Metric hardened flat washers should be marked in accordance with the relevant Standards as indicated in Table 14. Note that dimensions of washers given in ISO 7415 are larger than those of ISO 7089.

5.2 Acceptance tests for mechanical properties and inspection

The following tests are required for acceptance of hardened flat washers.

TABLE 15
ACCEPTANCE TESTS FOR WASHERS FOR THREADED BAR

Mechanical property	Test method	Applicability
Hardness	Vickers hardness test as per AS 1817.1 /ISO 6507.1	Required

Acceptance inspection of this product should be done in accordance with DIN EN ISO 3269. This Standard provides sampling schemes and acceptance criteria for batch inspection.

5.3 Marking

Hardened round flat washers made to AS1252 should have three nibs on the outer circumference at 120° intervals.

Hardened round flat washers made to EN 14399-5 or EN 14399-6 should have H marked on the washer surface with manufacturer identification.

AS 1237/ASTM F436/ISO 7089 do not specify any specific identification for plain steel flat washers. Some manufacturers include their identification and some mark the ISO 7089 Class but these are optional.

6 COMPLIANCE /CONFORMANCE CERTIFICATES

Amendment 1-2012 to AS 4100 requires a properly issued test certificate or a compliance certificate stating that the bolts, nuts and washers comply with all the provisions of the relevant Standard as sufficient evidence of compliance with the relevant Standard. Furthermore, this requires that the tests are carried out by an independent laboratory accredited by signatories to the International Laboratory Accreditation Corporation (Mutual Recognition Agreement) ILAC MRA on behalf of the supplier (manufacturer, importer) or customer. The compliance certificate is a letter or a certificate issued by the supplier taking responsibility for the product quality. By issuing these certificates, the supplier assures that the product is manufactured and performing in strict accordance with the relevant Standards specified in the certificate. Sufficient Factory Process Control (FPC) and sample testing need to be done on the particular batch of product in order to issue this certificate. This is an important legal document. If a false certificate is issued or if it is proven through adequate testing that the supplied certificate is false or misleading, the issuer of that certificate may be legally challenged.

As per HB 18.22 'Guidelines for third party certification and accreditation' the following information **must** be present in a valid compliance certificate or a letter of conformance:

- Date
- Name and address of the supplier
- Clear identification of the product with respective batch or purchase order number so that traceability to manufacturing process up to the stock material or material heat certificates can be made
- Identification of the relevant Standard or Standards
- Statement of Compliance or Conformance stating that the products as supplied fully comply with all the provisions of the relevant Standards
- Name, designation and signature of the issuing person

If this document does not refer to the particular batch of the product or the relevant Standards, it is not a valid document.

7 TEST CERTIFICATES

Test certificates contain more information than the compliance certificate. However, the statement of compliance as per compliance certificate must be present on the test certificate for it to be a valid test/compliance certificate as per AS 4100 requirements.

A valid test/compliance certificate must have the minimum of the following information:

- Date
- Name and address of the supplier
- Clear identification of the product with respective batch or purchase order number so that traceability to manufacturing process up to the stock material or material heat certificates can be made
- Identification of the relevant Standard or Standards
- Name and address of the test laboratory and their accreditation relating them to ILAC MRA
- List of tests conducted (with relevant Standards), test method used (with relevant Standards), specification based on the Standards, measured results:

- Threaded bars: Required acceptance tests as per Table 7 or as agreed with the customer
- Nuts: Required acceptance tests as per Table 13 or as agreed with the customer
- Washers: Required acceptance tests as per Table 15 or as agreed with the customer
- Statement of Compliance or Conformance stating that the products as supplied fully comply with all the provisions of the relevant Standards. This is the most important.
- Reference to a quality management system involved
- Name, designation and signature of the issuing person

A supplier may charge extra for providing a test certificate instead of a compliance certificate unless otherwise agreed at the ordering process. The organisation issuing the statement of compliance takes full responsibility for the compliance of the product to the relevant Standard. It is legally liable for this statement.

It is quite common that independent test laboratories undertaking contract testing for importers, issue test certificates that indicate that the product as tested meets with the requirements of the relevant Standards. This is not a valid compliance certificate as it only refers to the tested product. Unless the test laboratory has a full understanding of FPC and traceability of the product, they will not issue a compliance certificate. The importer or manufacturer has to take responsibility for the statement of compliance although it is issued with test data from an independent laboratory. In the statement of compliance, reference should be made to the supplied product with the particular batch identification.

If an engineer or a purchaser accepts an inadequate test/compliance certificate or statement of compliance it will not discharge him/her of the responsibility assigned by AS 4100. Therefore the responsible person must make sure the supplied test/compliance certificates are authentic and satisfy all the aforementioned requirements. It is good practice that these negotiations be held at the ordering process as there may be additional costs involved.

8 STORAGE

Threaded bars and nuts need to be stored in a way that it would prevent corrosion and potential thread damage of the bar and nuts. If stored in a wet or humid environment, independent of the coating applied, some corrosion may occur that will interfere with the performance of the product. Excessive corrosion may reduce the load-carrying capacities of the threaded bars.

Careful storage is absolutely essential if torque is used as a tightening method. Any difference to the surface condition from the calibrated condition may significantly impact the torque vs tension characteristics of the threaded bars. In this case the bars should be stored with the corresponding calibrated nuts in an environment that will not alter the surface characteristics of the products.

For higher strength threaded bars PC10.9 and higher there is an additional risk of Stress Corrosion Cracking (SCC) and Hydrogen Embrittlement (HE) if they come in contact with acids. SCC and HE could cause premature brittle failures of the stressed product. Therefore, they should not come in contact with acids or acid forming substances during the life time of the product. This danger is accentuated if the bar is heavily loaded.

APPENDIX A:

Checklist for a compliance certificate/letter of compliance

Parameter	Comment	Tick
Date	A date associated with the production, purchase order or the delivery note or in between	
Name and address of the supplier	Company name and ABN with a proper postal address. Company must have a responsible Australian entity	
Clear identification of the product with respective batch or purchase order number so that traceability to manufacturing process up to the stock material or material heat certificates can be made	Clear identification of the product	
	Production batch number or purchase order number	
	Reference to manufacturing quality system details (optional)	
Identification of the relevant Standard or Standards	Clear identification of relevant Standards; for an assembly not covered by one Standard, relevant Standard should be indicated for each component of the product.	
	The product should be actually covered in this Standard.	
Statement of compliance or conformance stating that the products as supplied fully comply with all the provisions of the relevant Standards	An appropriate statement wording would be: "The product xxxxxxxxx supplied under purchase order no./delivery docket no. xxxxxxxxx , as supplied is in full conformance with the relevant Standards xxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxx." Note: Product identification, P.O./delivery docket no., relevant Standards etc. may be included in the document and referred to but not necessarily in the statement. If the statement states "The product as tested is in full conformance with the relevant Standards....", it is not acceptable as a statement of conformance.	
Name, designation and signature of the issuing person	Should be the Quality Manager or the General Manager	



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Piper & Harvey Steel Fabrications (Wagga) 51 Tasman Road Wagga Wagga NSW 2650	02 6922 7527	Beenleigh Steel Fabrications 41 Magnesium Drive Crestmead QLD 4132	07 3803 6033	Sun Engineering 113 Cobalt Street Carole Park QLD 4300	07 3271 2988
Precision Oxycut 106 Long Street Smithfield NSW 2164	02 9316 9933	Bend-Worx 1 Viking Drive Wacol QLD 4076	07 3271 1377	Thomas Steel Fabrication 19 Hartley Street Garbutt QLD 4812	07 4775 1266
Protective Fencing 16 Pile Road Somersby NSW 2250	02 4340 4411	Brezac Constructions 27-35 Calcium Court Crestmead QLD 4132	07 3803 6188	Tobin Projects 47 Noble Avenue Northgate QLD 4013	07 3260 5189
Rambler Welding Industries 39 Lewington Street Wagga Wagga NSW 2650	02 6921 3062	Brown Steel 157 O'Mara Road Charlton QLD 4350	07 4614 3901	Vancisco Industries 1/162 Enterprise Drive Beaudesert QLD 4285	07 5541 1115
Redispan Conveyors 15 Old Punt Road Tomago NSW 2322	1300 131 370	Cairns Steel Fabricators 6 Walters Street Portsmith QLD 4870	07 4035 1506	W D T Engineers 124 Ingram Road Acacia Ridge QLD 4110	07 3345 4000
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Universal Steel Construction (Australia) 52-54 Newton Road Wetherill Park NSW 2164	02 9756 2555	KG Fabrication Unit 3/35 Sodium Street Narangba QLD 4504	07 3888 4646	Manuele Engineers 240-280 Morphett Road North Plympton SA 5037	08 8414 2000
W E Smith Engineering Hamilton Drive Boambee NSW 2450	02 6650 8888	Lazco Fabrications P.O. Box 884E Earlville QLD 4870	07 4035 5211	RC & ML Johnson 671 Magill Road Magill SA 5072	08 8333 0188
Walpett Engineering 48 Hincksman Street Queanbeyan NSW 2620	02 6297 1277	Morton Steel 78 Freight Street Lyton QLD 4178	07 3396 5322	SA Structural 9-11 Playford Crescent Salisbury North SA 5108	08 8285 5111
Weldcraft Engineering 79 Thuralilly Street Queanbeyan NSW 2620	02 6297 1453	Noosa Engineering & Crane Hire 9 Leo Ally Road Noosaville QLD 4566	07 5449 7477	Samaras Structural Engineers 96-106 Grand Trunkway Gillman SA 5013	08 8447 7088
WGE 151-153 Five Islands Road Cringila NSW 2502	02 4272 2200	Pierce Engineering 48 Quinn Street North Rockhampton QLD 4701	07 4927 5422	Tali Engineering 119 Bedford Street Gillman SA 5013	08 8240 4711
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Brunton Engineering & Construction 54-56 Freight Drive Somerton VIC 3062	03 9303 7475	Thornton Engineering Australia 370 Bacchus Marsh Road Corio VIC 3214	03 5274 3180	Inter-Steel 9 Ilda Road Canning Vale WA 6155	08 9256 3311
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GFC Industries 42 Glenbarray Road Campbellfield VIC 3061	03 9357 9900	Wisteria Steel Constructions 12 Elite Way Carrum Downs VIC 3201	03 9775 1983	JV Engineering 100 Dowd Street Welshpool WA 6106	08 6350 6400
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
GVP Fabrications 25-35 Japaddy Street Mordialloc VIC 3195	03 9587 2172	Allstruct Engineering 16 Ryelane Street Maddington WA 6109	08 9459 3823	Mentis Australia 34 Renewable Chase Bibra Lake WA 6163	08 9434 1961
Keppel Prince Engineering 184 Darts Road Portland VIC 3305	03 5523 8888	Alltype Engineering 52 Hope Valley Road Naval Base WA 6165	08 9410 5333	MetworkWA 57 Attwell Street Landsdale WA 6065	08 9303 9996
Kiewa Valley Engineering 34 Moloney Drive Wodonga VIC 3690	02 6056 6271	Arch Engineering 9 Rivers Street Bibra Lake WA 6163	08 9418 5088	Metro Lintels 2 Kalmia Road Bibra Lake WA 6163	08 9434 1160
Materials Fabrication/ Melbourne Facades 5/23 Bell Street Preston VIC 3072	03 9480 6988	Austline Fabrications 181 Welshpool Road Welshpool WA 6106	08 9451 7300	Mintrex Level 3, 516 Hay Street Subiaco WA 6008	08 9442 3333
Metalform Structures 2 Zilla Court Dandenong VIC 3175	03 9792 4666	Bossong Engineering 189 Planet Street Welshpool WA 6106	08 9212 2345	National Lintels 11a Delawney Street Balcatta WA 6021	08 9240 1666
Minos Structural Engineering Building 3, 69 Dalton Road Thomastown VIC 3074	03 9465 8665	Cays Engineering 17 Thornborough Road Greenfields WA 6210	08 9582 6611	Pacific Industrial Company 42 Hope Valley Road Naval Base WA 6165	08 9410 2566
Multicoat 7 Laser Drive Rowville VIC 3178	03 9764 8188	Civmec Construction and Engineering 16 Nautical Drive Henderson WA 6166	08 9437 6288	Park Engineers 388 Welshpool Road Welshpool WA 6106	08 9451 7255
P&T Weldings Vic 11 Davies Avenue North Sunshine VIC 3020	03 9367 5957	Complete Steel Projects 31 Cooper Road Jandakot WA 6164	08 9414 8579	Scenna Constructions 43 Spencer Street Jandakot WA 6164	08 9417 4447
Page Steel Fabrications 20 Fulton Drive Derrimut VIC 3030	03 9931 1600	Dwyer Engineering and Construction 16-22 Spencer Street Harvey WA 6220	08 9729 2922	Southern Steelworks 16-18 Hampton Street Mandurah WA 6210	08 9581 6872
Riband Steel (Wangaratta) 69-81 Garden Road Clayton VIC 3168	03 9547 9144	EMICOL First Floor, Ascot Place 226 Great Eastern Highway Belmont WA 6104	08 9374 1142	Uniweld Structural Co 10 Malcolm Road Maddington WA 6109	08 9493 4411

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