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**Passivation of corrosion-resistant  
stainless-steel fasteners**

*Passivation des éléments de fixation en acier inoxydable résistant à la  
corrosion*

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Published in Switzerland

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Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 16048 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 2, *Fasteners*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Mechanical properties of fasteners*.

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## Introduction

In the preparation of this International Standard special attention has been given to the fundamental fact that a surface film of chromium oxide is immediately formed when producing stainless steel or products made of stainless steel. It is this very thin oxide film which can be thickened by passivation. The thickness of the layer is about 0,002  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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# Passivation of corrosion-resistant stainless-steel fasteners

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the methods most often used for passivation of corrosion-resistant stainless steel fasteners.

Typical anodic dissolution behaviour of an active-passive-transpassive metal is given in Annex A.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3506-1:1997, *Mechanical properties of corrosion-resistant stainless-steel fasteners — Part 1: Bolts, screws and studs*

ISO 3506-2:1997, *Mechanical properties of corrosion-resistant stainless-steel fasteners — Part 2: Nuts*

ISO 3506-3:1997, *Mechanical properties of corrosion-resistant stainless-steel fasteners — Part 3: Set screws and similar fasteners not under tensile stress*

ISO 3506-4:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Mechanical properties of corrosion-resistant stainless-steel fasteners — Part 4: Tapping screws*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **passivation**

chemical treatment that increases the thickness of the naturally occurring chromium rich oxide film present on all types of stainless-steel surfaces

### 3.2

#### **passivity**

chemically inactive surface condition of stainless steels

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1) To be published.

## 4 Passivation

### 4.1 Pickling prior to passivation

Before passivation, a pickling treatment in a bath selected from those listed in Table 1 is recommended.

Before pickling, the fasteners shall be degreased and rinsed.

**Table 1 — Pickling baths**

Steel grade <sup>a</sup>	Chemicals	Concentration <sup>c</sup> volume %	Temperature <sup>c</sup> °C	Exposure time for fresh bath <sup>c</sup> min
A2 A3 A4 A5 C3 <sup>b</sup> F1	HNO <sub>3</sub>	20 to 30	20 to 60	10 to 30
	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	8 to 11	60 to 80	5 to 30
A1 C1 <sup>b</sup> C4 <sup>b</sup>	HNO <sub>3</sub>	10 to 15	20 to 60	10 to 30
	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	8 to 11	60 to 80	5 to 30

<sup>a</sup> Steel grades in accordance with ISO 3506-1, ISO 3506-2, ISO 3506-3 and ISO 3506-4.

<sup>b</sup> Prior to pickling, hot forged C1, C3 and C4 fasteners shall be soft annealed to the softest condition and shot-peened in order to reduce the risk of hydrogen embrittlement. For fasteners manufactured from soft annealed and ground C1, C3 and C4 raw material only a shot peening may be necessary.

<sup>c</sup> If necessary, values outside the specified ranges are permitted in adjusting the acid concentration, temperature and exposure time.