

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

**ISO**  
**3800**

First edition  
1993-12-15

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**Threaded fasteners — Axial load fatigue  
testing — Test methods and evaluation of  
results**

*Éléments de fixation filetés — Essais de fatigue sous charge axiale —  
Méthode d'essai et évaluation des résultats*

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Reference number  
ISO 3800:1993(E)

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 3800 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 2, *Fasteners*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Mechanical properties of fasteners*.

This first edition of ISO 3800 cancels and replaces ISO 3800-1:1977, which has been technically revised.

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International Organization for Standardization  
Case Postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland

Printed in Switzerland

# Threaded fasteners — Axial load fatigue testing — Test methods and evaluation of results

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the conditions for carrying out axial load fatigue tests on threaded fasteners, as well as recommendations for the evaluation of the results.

Unless otherwise agreed, the tests are of the fluctuating tension type and are carried out at room temperature, the loading applied being centric along the longitudinal axis of the fastener. The influence of the compliance of clamped parts on the strain of the fastener is not taken into account.

This method allows determination of the fatigue strength of threaded fasteners.

The test results can be influenced by the test conditions. For this reason, minimum requirements are specified to reduce this effect. In addition, calibration and centring control methods for the testing apparatus are included.

## 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements

based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 273:1979, *Fasteners — Clearance holes for bolts and screws.*

ISO 554:1976, *Standard atmospheres for conditioning and/or testing — Specifications.*

ISO 885:1976, *General purpose bolts and screws — Metric series — Radii under the head.*

ISO 4032:1986, *Hexagon nuts, style 1 — Product grades A and B.*

ISO 4033:1979, *Hexagon nuts, style 2 — Product grades A and B.*

ISO 8673:1988, *Hexagon nuts, style 1, with metric fine pitch thread — Product grades A and B.*

ISO 8674:1988, *Hexagon nuts, style 2, with metric fine pitch thread — Product grades A and B.*

## 3 Symbols and their designations

See table 1.

Table 1 — Symbols and their designations

Symbol	Designation
$A_{d3}$	Area at nominal minor diameter, $A_{d3} = \pi d_3^2/4$
$A_s$	Stress area $A_s = \frac{\pi}{4} \left( \frac{d_2 + d_3}{2} \right)^2$ Area to be used in calculations of mean stress and stress amplitude. By agreement between the user and supplier, $A_{d3}$ may be used.
$d$	Nominal size of the thread of the load verification stud
$d_1$	Basic minor diameter of the thread
$d_2$	Basic pitch diameter of the thread
$d_3$	Nominal minor diameter of the thread, $d_3 = d_1 - \frac{H}{6}$
$d_a$	Diameter at the point of tangency of the fillet
$d_h$	Clearance hole diameter
$d_s$	Shank diameter of the load verification stud
$D$	Nominal thread diameter of the threaded test adaptor
$F$	Tensile load
$F_{0,2}$	Tensile load at proof stress $R_{p0,2}$
$F_a$	Load amplitude
$\Delta F_{aII}$	Difference of load amplitudes in the transition range
$F_A$	Load amplitude at endurance fatigue limit
$F_m$	Mean load
$H$	Height of the fundamental triangle of the thread
$N$	Number of stress cycles
$N_G$	The number of stress cycles in the case where the test has discontinued without failure
$p$	Failure probability
$p_f$	Failure probability in the finite life range
$p_t$	Failure probability in the transition range
$P$	Pitch of the thread
$R_{m,min}$	Minimum tensile strength

Symbol	Designation
$R_s$	Constant stress ratio $\sigma_{min}/\sigma_{max}$
$s$	Width across flats of hexagons
$S(F_A)$	Standard deviation of the fatigue load
$S(\sigma_A)$	Standard deviation of the fatigue strength
$S(\log N)$	Standard deviation of logarithm of the fatigue life
$\alpha, \beta$	Coefficients of regression line for the inclined part of $S/N$ curve
$\sigma_a$	Stress amplitude
$\sigma_A$	Stress amplitude at endurance fatigue limit
$\sigma_{ax}$	Axial tensile stress
$\sigma_b$	Bending stress
$\sigma_m$	Mean stress
$\sigma_{min}$	Minimum stress
$\sigma_{max}$	Maximum stress
$\sigma_{Min}$	Minimum stress at endurance fatigue limit
$\sigma_{Max}$	Maximum stress at endurance fatigue limit
$\sigma_{AN}$	Fatigue strength at $N$ cycles
$\sigma_{AA}$	Estimated value of finite life strength at $N = 5 \times 10^4$
$\sigma_{AB}$	Estimated value of finite life strength at $N = 1 \times 10^6$
$\sigma_{a,i}$	Stress amplitude of the $i^{th}$ test in the finite life range
$\sigma_{a,j}$	Stress amplitude of the $j^{th}$ test by staircase method
$\Delta\sigma_{aI}$	Interval of stress amplitude of the test at the finite life range (inclined part of $S/N$ curve)
$\Delta\sigma_{aII}$	Difference in levels of stress amplitude in the transition range

NOTES

1 The symbol  $\wedge$  is used in the case of estimated values. For example, the estimated value  $\hat{\sigma}_{AN}$  of the fatigue strength at the number of cycles  $N$ .

2 The symbol  $-$  is used in the case of  $\sigma_a$  or  $\log N$  values which are derived from the regression line; e.g.  $\bar{\sigma}_a$  or  $\log \bar{N}$ .

4 Principle

Test are made on threaded fasteners to determine fatigue properties such as those shown by the Wöhler curve ( $S/N$  curve).

Threaded fasteners to be tested are mounted in an axial load fatigue testing machine and subjected to fluctuating tension type loading.

Tests with constant mean stress  $\sigma_m$  or constant stress ratio  $R_s = \sigma_{min}/\sigma_{max}$  may be used. Constant mean stress is used generally to determine infinite life [see case (c) in figure 10].

Constant stress ratio is generally for quality acceptance testing [see case (a) in figure 10].

The test is continued until the test piece fails, or until a predetermined number of stress cycles has been exceeded. Generally the number of test cycles is determined by the material or by the endurance fatigue strength of the test specimen. Unless otherwise specified, the definition of failure is complete separation of the fastener into two parts.

## 5 Apparatus

### 5.1 Testing machine

The testing machine shall be capable of maintaining automatically the loads to within  $\pm 2\%$  of the required values throughout the test and shall be equipped with a device for counting and recording the

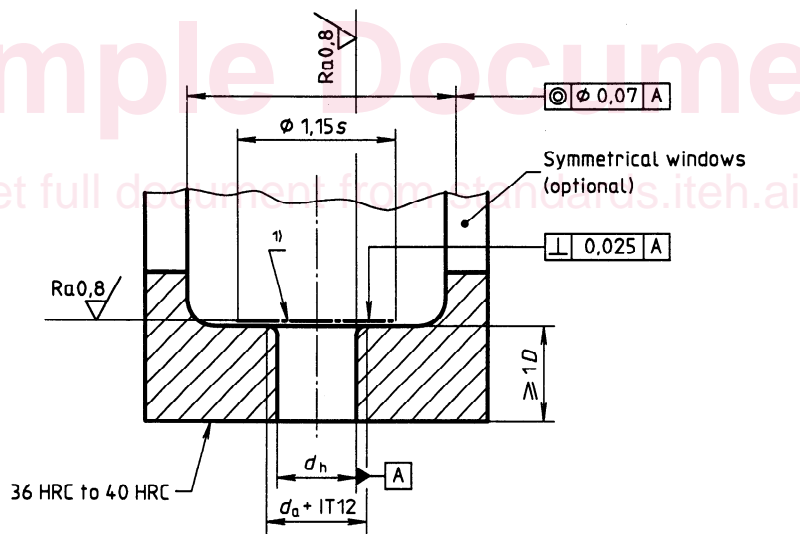
total number of cycles per test. The testing machine shall be calibrated periodically to ensure this accuracy. The frequency range of testing shall be between 4,2 Hz and 250 Hz. The testing machine shall induce a sinusoidal fluctuation in load in the test piece.

The testing machine shall have a device to prevent its automatic restarting after stopping due to electrical power service interruption.

### 5.2 Test fixtures

The test fixtures shall be capable of transmitting an axial load to the test piece. Figures 1 and 2 give basic requirements. Self-aligning devices are not recommended, see 5.3.

Perpendicularity and concentricity tolerances in millimetres, surface roughness in micrometres

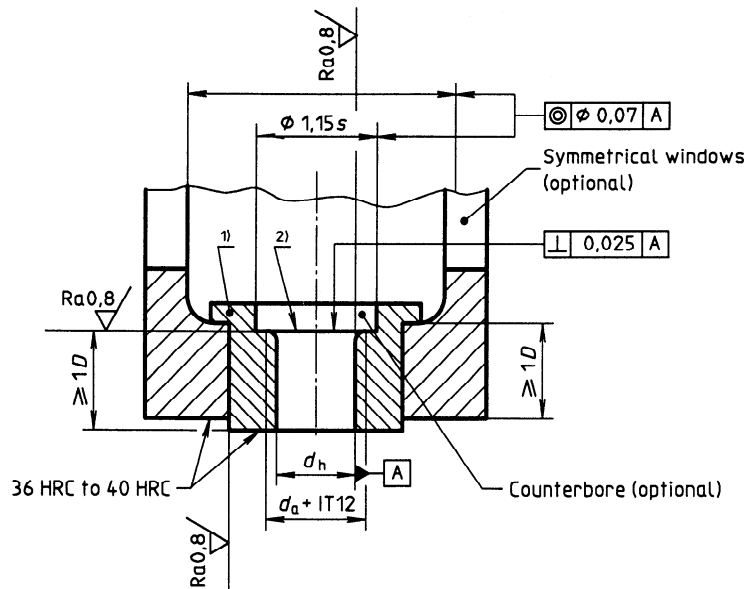


$d_h$  is in accordance with ISO 273, fine series.  
 $d_a$  is in accordance with ISO 885, finished products.

1) Surface may be case-hardened 0.25 mm to 0.5 mm deep: maximum hardness, HRC 60; minimum hardness, 5 points HRC greater than that of the test part.

**Figure 1 — Fixture without insert**

Perpendicularity and concentricity tolerances in millimetres, surface roughness in micrometres



$d_h$  is in accordance with ISO 273, fine series.  
 $d_a$  is in accordance with ISO 885, finished products.

- 1) The use of an insert shall not affect the rigidity of the test fixture.
- 2) Surface may be case-hardened 0,25 mm to 0,5 mm deep: maximum hardness, HRC 60; minimum hardness, 5 points HRC greater than that of the test part.

Figure 2 — Fixture with insert

### 5.3 Test alignment

Periodically, the alignment of the test set-up shall be verified. This shall be determined by using a load verification stud (see figure 3) with four strain gauges located at 90° on a common centreline around the axis. The length of the parallel part of the load verification stud shall be four times its diameter. When measured at 50 % of the load range used on the machine, the difference between the maximum stress  $\sigma_{ax} + \sigma_b$  and the nominal tensile stress  $\sigma_{ax}$  shall not exceed 6 % of the nominal tensile stress (see figure 4).

Self-aligning devices are not recommended. If they are used, alignment shall be checked carefully since

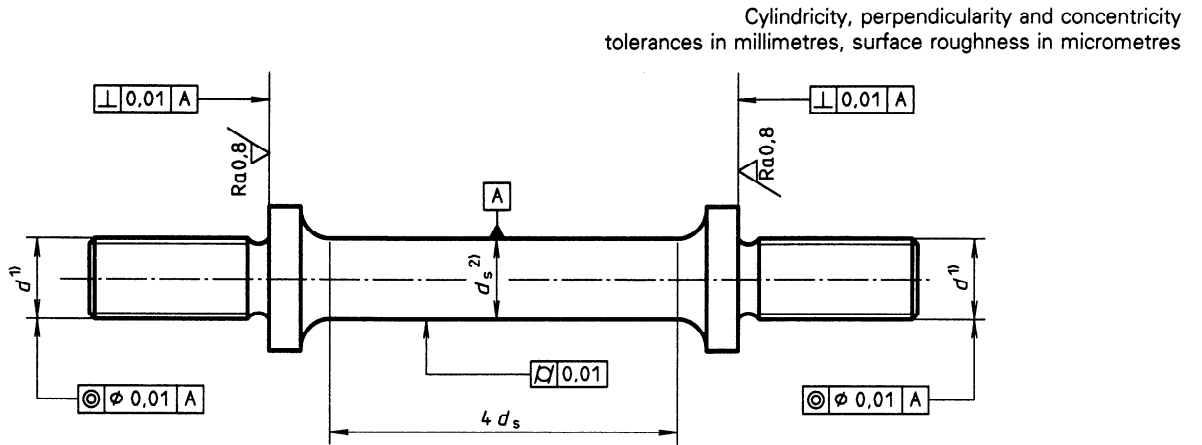
any excentric loading may cause fatigue test results to vary widely.

### 5.4 Internally threaded component

For fatigue testing of standard products, the appropriate size and property class of nut in accordance with ISO 4032, ISO 4033, ISO 8673 or ISO 8674 or a threaded adapter shall be used.

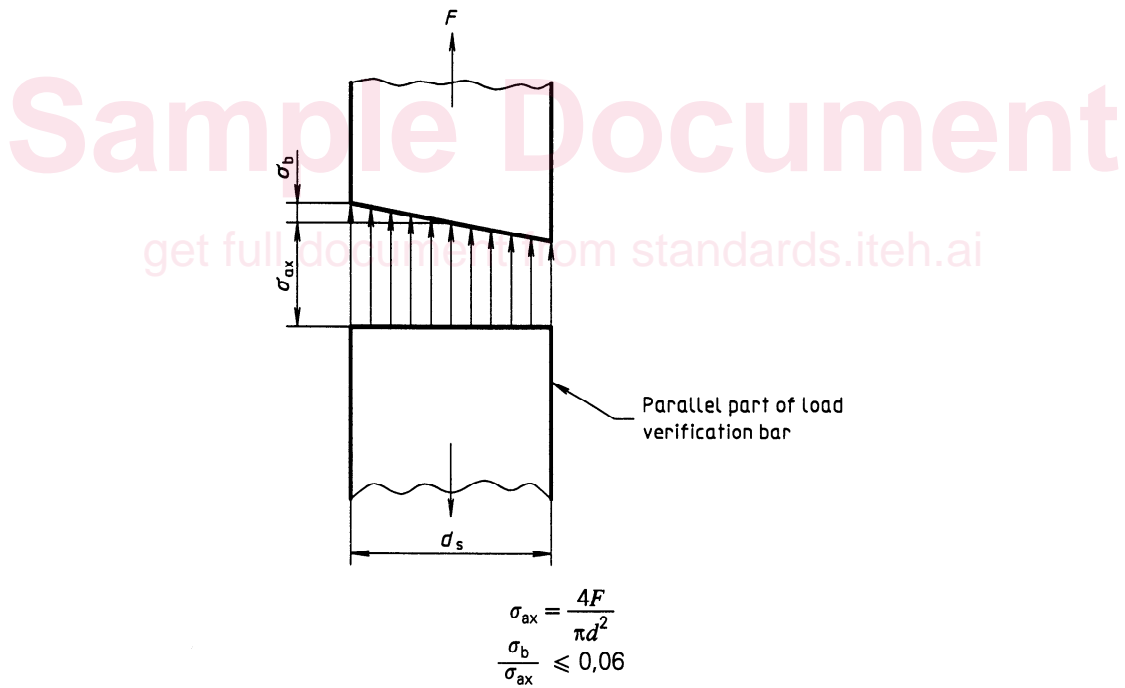
If special bolt-nut combinations are tested, a precise description of the nut shall be given as specified in 8.2.

If threaded adapters according to figure 5 are used, they shall be described in accordance with 8.2.



- 1) The tolerance class of the screw thread shall be 4h.
- 2)  $d_s = d$

**Figure 3 — Load verification stud**



**Figure 4 — Stress distribution in the shank of the load verification stud**