



# SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE



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Superseding J123 MAR1994

Surface Discontinuities on Bolts, Screws, and Studs in Fatigue Applications

## RATIONALE

The SAE Fasteners Committee has reviewed and compared both SAE J123 and ASTM F788/F788M including Supplementary Requirement S1. It has been determined that there is enough similarity between these two documents that ASTM F788/F788M (including S1 requirements) covers the requirements for automotive assemblies as intended according to SAE J123.

Please note that Supplementary Requirement S1 is intended for use only on fasteners subjected to severe dynamic stresses. When this requirement is specified, the fastener manufacturer must significantly increase production controls including machine set-up, blank diameters, die lubrication, in-process inspection requirements, and reduced production rate.

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**Foreword**—This Document has not changed other than to put it into the new SAE Technical Standards Board Format.

**1. Scope**—This SAE Recommended Practice defines, illustrates, and specifies allowable limits for various types of surface discontinuities that may occur or become apparent during the manufacture and processing of bolts, screws, and studs which are primarily intended for use in automotive assemblies subjected to severe dynamic stresses and necessitating use of high strength fasteners having appropriate fatigue-resistant properties.

**1.1** The basic document does not include inspection sampling requirements. It is intended that the purchaser shall specify, in the original inquiry and purchase order, the inspection sampling requirements which the producer must satisfy to demonstrate the acceptability of bolts and screws with respect to surface discontinuities. Appendix A outlines inspection sampling plans applicable when such requirements are not specified by the purchaser in the original inquiry, purchase order, or in related specifications.

**1.2** When the provisions of this document are specified by the purchaser, the fastener manufacturer must significantly increase production controls including machine set up, blank diameters, die lubrication, in-process inspection requirements, and reduced production rate.

## **2. References**

**2.1 Applicable Publication**—The following publication forms a part of this specification to the extent specified herein.

**2.1.1** ASTM PUBLICATION—Available from ASTM, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

ASTM E 3—Methods of Preparing Metallographic Specimens

**3. Types of Surface Discontinuities**—For the purpose of this document, surface discontinuities on bolts, screws, and studs are divided into ten "types," defined as follows:

**3.1 Crack**—A crack is a clean (crystalline) fracture passing through or across the grain boundaries without inclusion of foreign elements. Cracks are normally caused by overstressing the metal during forging or other forming operation, or during heat treatment. Where parts are subjected to significant reheating, cracks usually are discolored by scale.

- 3.1.1 **QUENCH CRACKS**—Quench cracks may occur during heat treatment due to excessively high thermal and transformation stresses. They usually traverse an irregular and erratic course on the surface of the fastener. Typical quench cracks are shown in Figure 1.
- 3.1.2 **FORGING CRACKS**—Forging cracks may occur during the cutoff or forging operations and are located on the top of the heads of screws and bolts. Typical forging cracks are shown in Figure 2.
- 3.2 **Seam**—Seams are generally inherent in the raw material from which fasteners are manufactured. They are narrow, generally straight or smooth-curved line discontinuities, running longitudinally on the shank and/or thread. Seams may extend onto the tops of the heads of circular head products as well as being present at the periphery of the head. Seams may also extend into the chamfer circle, washer face, and wrenching flats of hex head products. Typical seams are shown in Figure 3.
- 3.3 **Burst**—A burst is an open break in the metal (material). Bursts may occur on the flats or corners of the heads of bolts and screws, at the periphery of flanged or circular head products, or on the raised periphery of indented head bolts and screws. Typical bursts are shown in Figure 4.
- 3.4 **Shear Burst**—A shear burst is an open break in the metal, occurring most frequently at the periphery of products having circular or flanged heads and are generally located at approximately 45 degrees to the product axis. Shear bursts may also occur on the sides of hex head products. Typical discontinuities of this type are shown in Figure 4.
- 3.5 **Void**—A void is a shallow pocket or hollow on the surface of the bolt or screw due to nonfilling of metal during forging or upsetting. Typical voids are shown in Figure 5.
- 3.6 **Lap**—A lap is a fold-over of metal in the threads of screws, bolts, and studs. If laps occur, they generally show a pattern of consistency between the product, that is, laps will be identically located and with the same direction of traverse between all product. Typical laps in external threads are shown in Figure 6A.
- 3.7 **Fold**—A fold is a doubling over of metal which may occur during the forging operation. Folds may occur at or near the intersection of diameter changes and are especially prevalent with noncircular necks, shoulders, and heads. Typical folds are shown in Figure 7.
- 3.8 **Tool Marks**—Tool marks are longitudinal or circumferential grooves of shallow depth produced by the movement of manufacturing tools over the surface of the fastener. Typical tool marks are shown in Figure 8.
- 3.9 **Nick or Gouge**—A nick or gouge is an indentation on the surface of the fastener, produced by forceful abrasion or the impact of product coming into contact with other product or manufacturing equipment during manufacture.

#### 4. **Limits for Surface Discontinuities**

- 4.1 **Letter Definitions**—Throughout the following requirements, D designates the nominal size (basic major diameter of thread) of bolts, screws, and studs, except for bolts and screws with shoulders, in which case D designates the largest shoulder diameter. F designates the nominal flange diameter or head diameter of products having circular heads. For metric-series products, use millimeter; for inch-series products, use inch.
- 4.2 **Quench Cracks**—Quench cracks of any depth, any length, or in any location, are not permitted. (See 3.1.1 and Figure 1.)