



# Standard Test Methods for Determining the Mechanical Properties of Externally and Internally Threaded Fasteners, Washers, Direct Tension Indicators, and Rivets<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F606/F606M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.*

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 These test methods cover establishment of procedures for conducting tests to determine the mechanical properties of externally and internally threaded fasteners, washers, direct tension indicators, and rivets.

1.2 Property requirements and the applicable tests for their determination are specified in individual product standards. In those instances where the testing requirements are unique or at variance with these standard procedures, the product standard shall specify the controlling testing requirements. In the absence of any specified test requirement(s), these test methods shall apply.

1.3 These test methods describe mechanical tests for determining the following properties:

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<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F16 on Fasteners and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F16.01 on Test Methods.

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1.4 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

NOTE 1—The values are stated in inch-pound for inch fasteners and SI metric units for metric fasteners.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

- [A394 Specification for Steel Transmission Tower Bolts, Zinc-Coated and Bare](#)
- [E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines](#)
- [E8/E8M Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials](#)
- [E10 Test Method for Brinell Hardness of Metallic Materials](#)
- [E18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials](#)
- [E83 Practice for Verification and Classification of Extensometer Systems](#)
- [E92 Test Methods for Vickers Hardness and Knoop Hardness of Metallic Materials](#)
- [E384 Test Method for Microindentation Hardness of Materials](#)
- [F436/F436M Specification for Hardened Steel Washers Inch](#)

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

**\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard**

and Metric Dimensions

F959 Specification for Compressible-Washer-Type Direct Tension Indicators for Use with Structural Fasteners

F1624 Test Method for Measurement of Hydrogen Embrittlement Threshold in Steel by the Incremental Step Loading Technique

F2328 Test Method for Determining Decarburization and Carburization in Hardened and Tempered Threaded Steel Bolts, Screws, Studs, and Nuts

F2328M Test Method for Determining Decarburization and Carburization in Hardened and Tempered Threaded Steel Bolts, Screws, Studs, and Nuts (Metric)

2.2 Military Standard.<sup>3</sup>

MIL STD 1312, Test 13 and Test 20

### 3. Test Methods for Externally Threaded Fasteners

3.1 *Product Hardness*—Tests shall be conducted after the removal of any surface oxide, decarburization, plating or other coating. All readings shall be within the hardness values listed in the product specification. The average of all readings on the same part shall be considered as the product hardness. Test results shall conform to the product specification for the lot represented by the test specimens to be considered conforming. Test specimen preparation and hardness tests shall be conducted in accordance with Test Methods E18 for Rockwell tests, Test Method E10 for Brinell tests, Test Method E92 for Vickers tests, or Test Method E384 for Microhardness tests. The method used is at the option of the manufacturer, with regards to the size and grade of the products.

3.1.1 *Routine Test Locations*—For testing the hardness of the finished product, the following test locations can be used:

3.1.1.1 For hex and square head bolts; test shall be conducted on the wrench flats, top of head, unthreaded shank, end of bolt or at the arbitration location.

3.1.1.2 For studs, products without parallel wrench flats and for head styles other than hex and square; tests shall be conducted on the unthreaded shank, end of the bolt or stud or at the arbitration location.

3.1.1.3 Stress relieved products (3.1.1.1 and 3.1.1.2) are measured anywhere on the surface or through the cross section. Refer to the product specification for particular test location or use the arbitration location.

3.1.1.4 The Rockwell Hardness Scale may be used for all product diameters; however, the Brinell hardness is limited to products over 1½-in. or M36.

3.1.2 *Laboratory Inspection*—A minimum of three readings shall be taken on each sample of finished product.

3.1.3 *Arbitration Test Location*—For purposes of arbitration between the purchaser and seller over reported test results, hardness tests shall be conducted at the mid-radius ( $r/2$ ) of a transverse section through the threads taken at a distance of approximately one diameter from the point end of the bolt or one end of the stud. Four readings shall be taken from the point end of the bolt or one end of the stud. Four readings shall be taken approximately 90° to one another on the same plane, if product size permits. Smaller diameter products may also use the opposite parallel surface area of the bolt head end as sectioned above (see Fig. 1). The use of Brinell hardness for arbitration testing is limited to product sizes greater than 2¼-in. or M60.

3.2 *Tension Tests*—It is preferred that bolts and studs be tested full size, and it is customary, when so testing, to specify a minimum ultimate load (or stress) in pounds-force (or pounds-force per square inch.) for inch fasteners and or load in newtons-force or megapascals MPa for metric fasteners. Sections 3.2 – 3.5 apply when testing externally threaded fasteners full size. Section 3.6 shall apply where the individual product specifications permit the use of machined specimens (see Test Methods E8/E8M).

3.2.1 *Proof Load*—The proof-load test consists of stressing the product with a specified load that the product must withstand without measurable permanent set. Alternative tests

<sup>3</sup> DLA Document Services Building 4/D 700 Robbins Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094 <http://quicksearch.dla.mil/>

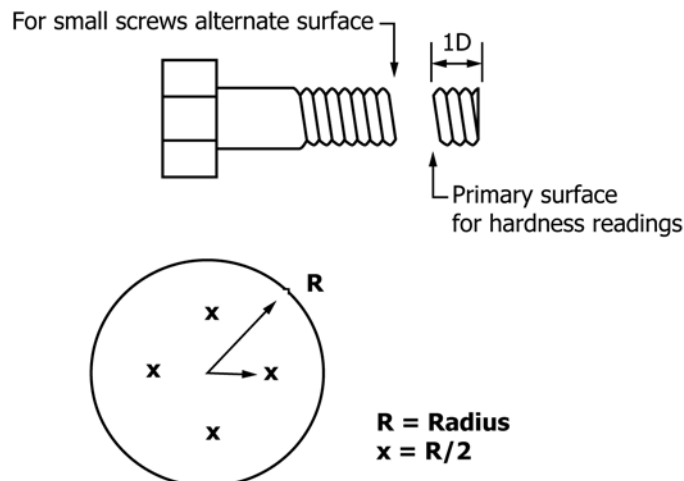


FIG. 1 Hardness Arbitration Test Location

for determining the ability of a fastener to pass the proof-load test are the yield strength test and the uniform hardness test. Either Method 1 (3.2.3), Method 2 (3.2.4), or Method 3 (3.2.5) may be used, but Method 1 shall be the arbitration method in case of any dispute as to acceptance of the product (see Test Methods E8/E8M).

3.2.2 In both Methods 1 and 2, assemble the product in the fixture of the tension testing machine so that six complete threads (except for heavy hex structural bolts, which shall be based on four threads) are exposed between the grips. This is obtained by freely running the nut or fixture to the thread runout of the specimen and then unscrewing the specimen six full turns. For continuous thread bolts, at least six full threads shall be exposed between the fixture ends; however, for referee purposes, six full threads shall be exposed.

3.2.3 *Method 1, Length Measurement*—To ensure consistent and repetitive length measurements of the fastener, the threaded end and top of the bolt head shall have conical depressions made at the approximate axis or center line of the fastener. In the event of a dispute over test results the test shall be conducted after the removal of all manufacturer or grade markings, surface oxide, decarburization, plating, other coating, or a combination thereof, to achieve a clean, flat surface and the conical depressions shall be created using a lathe or some type of centering fixture. All debris shall be removed from the conical depressions before measuring the part. When fasteners are too long to test in the available equipment the fastener may be cut to 8 inches  $\pm$  0.125 for inch fasteners or a length of 200 mm  $\pm$  3.0 mm for metric fasteners and tested using Method 1. If there is a dispute over results when testing the same part or lot of parts, both full size and cut fastener the cut fastener results shall be used to determine acceptance. The measuring instrument shall have pointed anvils which mate with the center line depressions and be capable of measuring changes in length of 0.0001 in. for inch fasteners and 0.0025 mm for metric fasteners. The instrument accuracy shall be within 0.0001 in. in any 0.001 in. range for inch parts and within 0.0025 mm accuracy within any 0.025 mm range for metric parts. Place the fastener between the measuring anvils. The fastener shall be rotated at least 360 degrees to assure sound seating. At the position where the lowest value is indicated the instrument shall be zeroed or the indicated measurement shall be recorded. If using a bolt extensometer, the bolt with attached extensometer may be assembled into the tension testing machine. If not, mark the fastener so it may be placed as close as possible to the same position for the second reading. Remove and assemble the fastener into the tension testing machine as outlined in 3.4. With a test speed which shall not exceed 0.12 in./min for inch fasteners and 3.0 mm/min for metric fasteners, as determined with a free-running cross head, axially load the fastener to the proof load value specified in the product specification. This load shall be maintained for a period of 10 s before releasing the load. Replace the fastener between the measuring anvils and rotate at least 360 degrees as before. The fastener shall be stopped at the position where the lowest value is indicated. The measurement shall show no permanent elongation. A tolerance of  $\pm$ 0.0005 in. for inch fasteners and  $\pm$  0.013 mm for metric

fasteners shall be allowed (for measurement error only) between the measurement made before loading and that made after loading. Variables such as straightness, thread alignment, or measurement error could result in apparent elongation of the product when the specified proof load is initially applied. In such cases, the product may be retested using a 3 % greater load, and shall be considered acceptable if there is no difference in the length measurement after this loading within a 0.0005 in. for inch fasteners and  $\pm$  0.013 mm for metric fasteners, measurement tolerance as outlined.

3.2.4 *Method 2, Yield Strength*—Assemble the product in the testing equipment as outlined in 3.4. As the load is applied, measure and record the total elongation of the product or any part of it that includes the exposed threads to produce a load-elongation diagram. Determine the load or stress at an offset equal to 0.2 % of the length of bolt occupied by six full threads as shown in Fig. 2 (except for heavy hex structural bolts, which shall be based on four threads) by the method described in 3.6.3.1.

3.2.4.1 *Method 2A, Yield Strength for Austenitic Stainless Steel and Non-ferrous Materials*—Assemble the product in the testing equipment as outlined in 3.4. As the load is applied, measure and record the total elongation of the product in order to produce a load elongation diagram. Determine the load or stress at an offset equal to 0.2 % strain based on the length of the bolt between the holders as shown in Fig. 2, which will be subject to elongation under load by using the method described in 3.6.3.1.

3.2.5 *Method 3, Uniform Hardness*—The fasteners shall be tested for hardness as described in 3.1, and in addition, the hardness shall also be determined in the core. The difference between the mid-radius and core hardness shall be not more than 3 points on a Rockwell C Scale; and both readings must be within product specification. This test is valid for fasteners up to and including 1 in. for inch fasteners and M24 diameter for metric fasteners.

3.3 *Bolts or Studs Too Short for Tension Testing*—Product lengths less than those shown in Table 1 for product  $\frac{1}{4}$  through  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. for inch fasteners and M5 through M20 for metric fasteners in diameter and less than three diameters in length for product above  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. and M20 in diameter, or that do not have sufficient threads for proper engagement and still leave the specified number of complete threads exposed between the grips, shall be deemed too short for tension testing, and acceptance shall be based on a hardness test performed in accordance with 3.1. If tests other than product hardness are required, their requirements should be referenced in the product specification. When differences in tensile testing lengths exist between this standard and product standards, the requirements of the product standard shall take precedence. Minimum length in Table 1 indicates the nominal specified length of an inch fastener (that is an A449 Hex Cap Screw size is specified as  $\frac{1}{2}$ -13  $\times$  1  $\frac{1}{8}$  indicates 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. is the nominal length) and Table 2 for a metric fastener for size M12  $\times$ 30 indicates the nominal length is 30 mm.

### 3.4 Axial Tension Testing of Full-Size Products:

3.4.1 Bolts may be tested in a holder with the load axially applied between the head and a nut or suitable fixture (Fig. 2),