



BUILDING NOTE

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STRUCTURAL STEEL BOLTS

Purpose

The Department of Housing and Works has been alerted to the possibility that some imported structural steel bolts do not meet the requirements of AS/NZS 1252 *High Strength Steel bolts with associated nuts and washers for structural engineering* and other relevant Australian Standards.

BCA Requirements

The BCA references AS4100 – *Steel Structures* as an acceptable construction manual and that standard in turn requires high strength bolts of grade 8.8 to comply with AS/NZS 1252.

Background

Concern has been raised with respect to non-conforming structural steel bolts entering the Australian market. Although the steel bolts have been stamped as meeting the requirements of the relevant Australian Standards, it has been identified that batches of bolts do not meet the minimum requirements. Often the supporting certification documents have been absent, deficient or incomplete. There is also the difficulty of not being able to trace non-conforming products to a particular batch or shipment.

To ensure compliance with the Australian Standards it is essential that design engineers and fabricators provide specific details on the bolts to be used in the structural steel framework.

To prevent inferior products entering the market, importers and local manufacturers should have each batch of structural bolts independently tested by a NATA or other accredited testing authority.

The end users of structural bolts, such as builders, should insist on receiving test certificates relevant to the batch of bolts purchased. A copy of such test certificates should be forwarded to local governments and kept on the building licence application file.

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