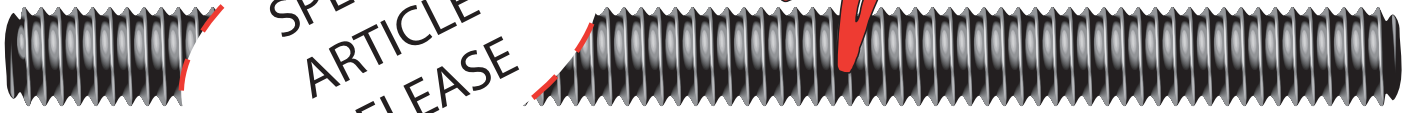


THE HOBSON

Update



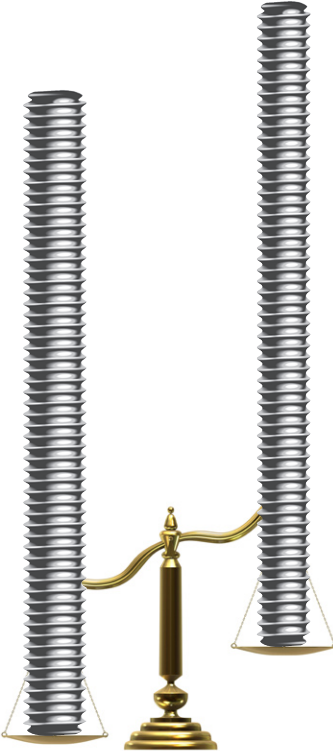
From the desk of Peter Hobson

WARNING: Undersized Allthread

It has always been a topic of amazement to me, the fact that the Chinese have two grades of threaded rod, “domestic” and “export”. I have written previously about the ever diminishing quality of fasteners being imported into Australia. The slow nature of the current market is putting even more pressure on fastener importers. Quite simply, with extremely low margins and slow market activity, many importers are losing money. Unfortunately, this has resulted in lowering quality standards, and this no more evident than in mild steel threaded rod. Many of you will say, “Who cares about threaded rod, as long as the nut fits, it’s OK”..... this is the sort of attitude that allows the quality of fasteners to deteriorate. My question is, if you are purchasing threaded rod that is undersized, and hence not meeting any standards, how undersized is too small?

An M10 x 3000mm ZP length of allthread weighs approximately 1.40-1.43kg if it meets specification. This item is classed as “Export Quality”. There are importers selling “Chinese Domestic Quality” rod in Australia extremely cheaply, in fact under our cost! How is this done? Very simply, if you weigh their rod, it will weigh between 1.24 – 1.32 kgs, a saving of up to 13%. The price of a piece of M10 x 3000mm ZP threaded rod contains hardly any value adding; that is the cost of the steel and zinc plating is almost all of the price. This saving means that

AS1275 8g Hobson	Chinese Domestic Quality
------------------	--------------------------



the rod is 13% cheaper. A saving of 13% is huge on an item like this. However the rod is NOT to specification; just try putting a nut or other type of mating fastener on it..... it rattles and wobbles down the thread of the rod. One is almost receiving an M9 instead of M10 thread!

Sure... it doesn’t matter, until an air-conditioning unit collapses on someone and kills them..... then it matters, and believe me the 20 cent saving you thought you made will seem ridiculous against the product liability claim and potential criminal charges. The sellers surely know the product is not to specification, after all, they are purchasing “Chinese Domestic” quality, or as they say “cheap cheap”.

I have been told by more than one customer, “we don’t care, sell us the cheap stuff!” As long as I am running this company, Hobson Engineering will not knowingly sell inferior quality product. We spend many hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to ensure the product we sell meets relevant standards, whether it is mild steel threaded rod or a studbolt holding a valve together on an offshore drilling rig. “Since 1935..... because quality matters” is not just a slogan to us, it is our culture. As an indication of this, not only am I the CEO, I am also the Quality Manager; personally responsible for releasing all shipments for sale.... a lot more than just a slogan to us!

M10 x 3000mm ZP	AS1275 8g fit “Hobson”	Chinese Domestic Quality
M10 OD (major diameter)	9.593-9.968mm	9.10-9.30mm
Weight	1.40-1.43kgs	1.24-1.32kg