

IHF-Stretch-System

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IHF-Stretch-Connection

Purpose

The IHF-Stretch-Connection is approved from the "Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik (DIBt)" and generally used in steel constructions, especially with ring flanges. The bolted connection is designed for use with an axial hydraulic tensioning system. Here the necessary pretensioning force is applied completely free of friction. When using the tensioning process there are no additional strains introduced on the bolt from either bending or torsion. This allows for better utilization of the bolt with reduced strains on the joint. This in turn results in a more reliable connection.

The connection: Only 2 core elements

A conventional HV-bolt connection consists of one hexagon bolt, one hexagon nut and two washers. The innovative IHF-Stretch-System reduces the connection to two core elements: the **IHF-Stretchbolt** and the roundnut **RMS.**

Cost reduction by using the HV-tension-system

On conventional HV-connections the standard pretensioning force is applied by torguing the nut with a hydraulic wrench. It is not uncommon to have very different friction coefficients from bolt to bolt with the torquing process. This in turn can lead to big fluctations in pretensioning forces. Therefore it is possible that the pretensioning force on some of the connections is below the miniumum pretensioning force required. With dynamic loads a bigger stress intensity factor appears which can lead to bolt failures. By using the IHF-Stretch-System a higher repeatability (Diagram 2) of the pretensioning force on the bolt is guaranteed. This improved connection permits for longer maintenance intervals and therefore reduces maintenance costs. The more compact tensioning tool (bolt tensioning cylinder) makes it possible to reduce the center distance "A" from the center of the bolt to the casing inner wall. Thus the flange diameter of the ring can be reduced which leads to a considerable cost reduction.



Picture 1: Conventional HV-connection: hexagon bolt, hexagon nut, washers



the IHF-Stretchbolt with Roundnut RMS



Diagram 1: Applied pretensioning forces (M36) after assembly by means of torquing method measured at tower flanges



Diagram 2: Applied pretensioning forces after assembly by means of IHF-Stretch-System

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Innovation of production

Tensioning optimized design

All IHF-fastening elements are designed with the use of "Finite Element Analysis".

Thus it was possible to reduce the maximum stresses in the stud bolt and in the nut compared to standard HV-hardware. This reduced maximum stress guarantees that IHF-bolt connections have a higher life time than standard HV-connections.



Picture 3: FE calculation **IHF**-Stretch-System (left) comparing to HV-Standard (right)

The JUMBOTECH® production process:

The "IHF-Stretchbolt" is produced according to the patented JUMBOTECH[®] production process by the company SBE. This is the only cold forming process which allows production accuracies with a small tolerance value of 0,05 mm for stud bolts up to M48. Compared to hot forming the modern SBE-extruding process makes it possible to produce the stud bolt directly out of the drawn coil with a length from 150 to 200 m. By using the cold forming process other expensive processes such as sand blasting, turning and heat treatment can be dropped. All production steps are documented at SBE. By doing this a complete traceability from the bolt to the raw material is possible.

DIBt-Approval

The "Deutsche Institut für Bautechnik" (DIBt) granted IHF GmbH the general building approval for the IHF-Stretch-System (approval number: Z-14.4-592). The DIBt is the registration authority for general building approvals. Approval is required for building products and techniques that don't have standardization or require huge deviations to existing standardizations. A precondition for obtaining this approval was scientific testing of various bolted connections. The testing was done by a leading university in Germany, which is specialized in bolting technology.

Corrosion protection: less restricted

Because the HV-tension-system works free of torsion and friction, there is no restriction on the choice of surface coating. All types of corrosion protection can be used on the connection including hot-dip galvanazing, Dacromet and Deltaton among others.



Picture 4: JUMBOTECH[®] Production Process, Hexagon Stud M36





Stretch-Method

Multi-tensioning system

To achive an even distribution of the pretensioning forces in the bolts and therefore an even tension of the ring flanges you can use the "multi-tensioning-system". It is possible to connect several bolt-tensioning cylinders in series or one after another. By doing this you are guaranteed a balanced loading of the components and a high repeatability of the pretensioning force. Compared to the torquing method the IHF-Stretch-System has gained more acceptance because of it's higher accuracy, better safety and faster speed.

Direct elongation measurement system

The direct elongation measurement system developed by ITH enables a direct measurement of the length change to the bolt. The digitally recorded length change is then passed on to the pump controller by means of a transmitter. This recorded data can then be sent to a printer or a computer as record of the pretensioning force for all the bolted connections.

Easy handling, high security

For the pretensioning of the fastening elements a hydraulic ITH bolt-tensioning cylinder is used. The bolt tensioning cylinder is threaded on the extra thread above the nut by means of a hand ratchet. The tensioner is then pressurized with a predetermined hydraulic pressure. By doing this the stud bolt is elongated only in an axial direction. After the desired pressure is met the nut is tightened with a specific torque. The IHF-Stretch-System technology guarantees that joint settling is reduced to a minimum.





Picture 8: Tensioning of Foundation bolts



Тур	Order-No.	Tensioning force [kN]	Thread size Ø D1 standard / special	A [mm]	B min [mm]	B max [mm]	P _{min} [mm]	Total High [mm]
MS 30	33.04593	460	M 30	36	30	38	64	200
MS 33	33.04594	570	M 33	39	33	40	70	220
MS 36	33.04595	670	M 36	42	36	60	75	256
MS 39	33.04596	805	M 39	46	39	62	81	270
MS 42	33.04597	920	M 42	50	42	63	88	280
MS 45	33.04598	1080	M 45	55	45	65	95	275
MS 48	33.04599	1220	M 48	57	48	65	102	300
MS 52	33.04600	1450	M 52	62,5	52	75	112	335
MS 56	33.04601	1680	M 56	66,5	56	85	118	355
MS 60	33.04602	2010	M 60	68	60	75	122	355
MS 64	33.04603	2210	M 64	70	64	79	126	357

Technical advantages of the IHF-Stretch-System at a glance

- No bending or torsional stresses in the bolt
- Higher utilization of the yield point
- ✓ Exact setting of the pretensioning force
 → System is working free of friction
- ✓ Repeat accuracy in working
 → High repeatability of the pretensioning force at several bolt connections
- ✓ Fast and safe assembly

Cost advantages of the IHF-Stretch-System at a glance

- Less expensive ring flanges
- Less expensive tool costs
- Lower costs of the fastening elements
- Less Expensive maintenance-costs by higher repeatability during pretensioning
- ✓ Smaller bolt dimensions at same pretensioning force
- ✓ Fast assembly
 → Reduced Crane- and assembly costs
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Fastening Elements IHF-Stretch-System



Ød	м	30	м	36	м	39	M	42	M	45	M4	8	M56	M64
Stud														
Ø F₅	55,9		65,25		70,5		7	77		,5	91		104	114
Nut														
ØFℕ	55,9		65		70,5		77		83	5,5	91		104	114
Flange	22		20		10		45		_	_	50		60	60
Ødf	32		39		42		45		52		52		60	68
Flange length I	lkmin lkmax		lkmin lkmax		lkmin lkmax				lkmin lkmax		lkmin lkmax		lkmin lkmax	lkmin lkmax
135	70	75												
140	75	80												
145	80	85												
150	85	90	75	80										
155	90	95	80	85										
160	95	100	85	90										
165	100	105	90	95										
170	105	110	95	100										
175	110	115	100	105										
180	115	120	105	110	100	105								
185	120	125	110	115	105	110								
190	125	130	115	120	110	115	100	105						
195	130	135	120	125	115	120	105	110						
200	135	140	125	130	120	125	110	115						
205	140	145	130	135	125	130	115	120	110	115				
210	145	150	135	140	130	135	120	125	115	120				
215	145	150	135	140	130	135	125	130	120	125	110	115		
220	145	150	135	140	130	135	130	135	125	130	115	120		
225	145	150	135	140	130	135	135	140	130	135	120	125		
230	145	150	135	140	130	135	140	145	135	140	125	130		





Leader in technology by partnership

IHF Combines Knowledge and Technology: Increased customer profits by a technically optimized design of the connection

The development of the IHF-Stretch-System came into existance by a cooperation between the German company ITH GmbH & Co. KG and the Italian Vescovini Group. In the common subsidiary IHF GmbH the know-how of both partners is brought together: ITH is the market leader of precise bolting tools for tightening and loosening large bolts. The company SBE – a subsidiary of the Vescovini Group – brings in it's knowledge about the innovative production technology of bolts. The Vescovini Group with about 400 employees and an output of over 60.000 t per year is one of the biggest bolt producers in Europe. The customers profit from the combination of know-how and design optimized technology.



Picture 9: ITH GmbH & Co. KG, Headquarter Meschede, Germany



Picture 10: SBE, Vescovini Group, Italy



LEADING IN BOLTING TECHNOLOGY High quality tools for tightening and loosing large bolts by ITH-Stretch-System and Torque System





COMBINES THE COMPETENCES OF

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LEADING IN FASTENERS MANUFACTURING SBE Manufacturer of large bolts and nuts by cold forging process JUMBOTECH® in Vescovini Group.

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