FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

OMB APPRO	VAL				
OMB Number:	3235-0287				
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

	nd Address of CKI KATI		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ASHLAND INC [ASH]										eck all a	k all applicable) Director		ng Person(s) to Issuer 10% Owner		wner				
	(Fi		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/15/2004											Officer (give title below)		Other (s below)		specify				
27175 H	AGGERTY	ROAD			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)										6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)							
(Street) NOVI MI 48377															X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person							
(City) (State) (Zip)																						
		Tab	le I - Non-[Derivat	tive S	Securi	ties A	cqui	ired, C	Disp	osed	of, or E	ene	ficial	ly Ow	ne	d					
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)				2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)		Execu	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)		Transaction Dispo		Dispose	urities Acquired (A) o sed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a			and Securit		cially (D Following (I)		wnership n: Direct or Indirect nstr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
							Code	v	Amoun	t (A) or (D)		Price	Tra	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)				(501 4)				
Restricted	ł Stock															1,0	000(1)	D				
		Т	able II - De (e.									, or Be ble sec			Own	ed						
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Da if any (Month/Day/Y	Co	ansactio	on of Der Sec Acc (A) Dis of (Ins	of		ate Exerc iration D nth/Day/	ate		e and 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Secu (Instr. 3 and 4)			Derivat Securit	. Price of Derivative Decurity Destr. 5)	9. Number derivative Securities Beneficial! Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4)	у	Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				Co	ode V	(A)	(D)	Date Exe	e rcisable	Ex Da	piration te	Title	or Nu of	nount imber ares								
Common Stock Units	\$0 ⁽²⁾	12/15/2004		J((3)	1			(3)		(3)	Commor Stock		1	\$58.2	3	278		D			

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Represents shares of Restricted Common Stock acquired pursuant to Ashland's stock incentive plans as approved by the shareholders and exempt pursuant to Rule 16b-3.
- 2. 1-for-1
- 3. Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors as of 12-15-04, payable in cash or stock upon termination of service and exempt under Rule 16b-3. (One (1) Common Stock Unit in the Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors is the equivalent of one (1) share of Ashland Common Stock)

<u>M Craig Hall</u> <u>12/16/2004</u>

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.