

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-4

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
Under
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

GRIFFON CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

3442
(Primary standard industrial classification code number)

11-1893410
(I.R.S. employer identification number)

**100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, New York 11753
(516) 938-5544**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

**Robert Balemian
100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, New York 11753
(516) 938-5544**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

**Nancy D. Lieberman, Esq.
Kramer, Coleman, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C.
100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, New York 11753
(516) 822-4820**

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Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Four Times Square
New York, New York 10036
(212) 735-3000**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:
As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box:

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per unit	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series)	\$130,000,000	100%	\$129,610,000(1)	\$16,422(2)
Common Stock, par value \$0.25 per share (including the associated preferred stock purchase rights)(3)	5,387,484 shares(4)	—(4)	—(4)	—(4)

(1) This registration statement relates to the issuance by Griffon of an aggregate of up to \$130,000,000 principal amount of its 4% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes (second series) for up to \$130,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes. Pursuant to Rule 457(f)(2) and Rule 457(f)(3) under the Securities Act of 1933, this amount is the book value as of May 18, 2004 of the maximum amount of the 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes

that may be tendered to the Registrant by tendering holders minus \$390,000, the maximum amount of cash to be paid by the registrant, in connection with the exchange offer described herein.

- (2) The registration fee has been calculated pursuant to Rule 457(f) under the Securities Act of 1933.
- (3) Includes associated preferred stock purchase rights ("Rights") to purchase 11/10,000 of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.25 per share, subject to adjustments. Rights initially are attached to, and trade with, the common stock of the Registrant and will not be exercisable until the occurrence of specified events.
- (4) Represents the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes (second series) registered hereunder. No additional consideration shall be received for the common stock issuable upon conversion of the securities and therefore no additional registration fee is required pursuant to Rule 457(i) under the Securities Act of 1933. Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, such number of shares of common stock registered hereby shall include an indeterminate number of shares of common stock that may be issued in connection with a stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization or other similar event.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Griffon Corporation

Offer to Exchange

**up to \$130,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount
of Newly Issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series)
plus
up to \$390,000 in cash (\$3.00 per \$1,000 principal amount)
for
up to \$130,000,000 Outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount
of 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (CUSIPS 398433AA0 and 398433AB8)**

**The exchange offer will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time,
on June 21, 2004, unless extended or earlier terminated.**

We are offering to exchange \$1,000 principal amount of newly issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series), which we refer to as the new notes, and \$3.00 in cash, which we refer to as the cash consideration, for each \$1,000 principal amount of our currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023, which we refer to as the 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (first series) or the old notes. The form and terms of the new notes are identical in all respects to those of the old notes, except that certain conditions to the conversion of the notes will be modified. The principal modification is that the market price condition, which is the level at which our stock must trade before the new notes may be converted, will be changed to increase from 120% of the conversion price to 150% of the conversion price. The conversion price of the old notes is currently \$24.13. When we are referring to both the new notes and the old notes, we will use the term "notes." If you elect to tender your old notes in the exchange offer, you will receive from us \$1,000 principal amount of new notes and \$3.00 in cash in exchange for each \$1,000 principal amount of old notes that you tender. The exchange offer is not conditioned upon the exchange of a minimum principal amount of old notes. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., which has advised us that it is the beneficial owner of \$73,935,000 principal amount of the outstanding old notes, or approximately 57% of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the old notes, has informed us that it intends to tender all of the old notes that it owns in this exchange offer.

Our new notes will not be listed on any national securities exchange or included in any automated quotation system, but they will be eligible for trading in the PORTAL Market of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Our old notes are traded in the PORTAL Market. Our common stock is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "GFF." On May 13, 2004, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$22.57 per share.

We are mailing this prospectus and the related letter of transmittal for the exchange offer on May 21, 2004.

Please read the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 11 of this prospectus for information that you should consider before you decide whether to tender your old notes in the exchange offer.

We have retained American Stock Transfer & Trust Company as the information and exchange agent for the exchange offer to assist you in connection with the exchange offer. Banks, brokers and others may call American Stock Transfer & Trust Company toll free at (877) 248-6417, to ask questions about the exchange offer, to request additional copies of the exchange offer materials or to otherwise request assistance in connection with the exchange offer.

Neither we nor our directors or officers make any recommendation to you as to whether you should tender or refrain from tendering all or any portion of your old notes in the exchange offer. You should consult your own advisors and must make your own decision as to whether to tender your old notes and, if so, the amount of your old notes to tender.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This Prospectus is dated May 21, 2004

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information provided by this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus.

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This prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about us from documents that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission but have not included in or delivered with this prospectus. For a listing of documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus, please see the section of this prospectus entitled "Where You Can Find Additional Information" on page 62. We will provide you with copies of this information, without charge, upon written or oral request to:

Griffon Corporation
100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, New York 11753
(516) 938-5544
Attention: Chief Financial Officer

To obtain timely delivery of requested documents before the expiration of the exchange offer, you must request them no later than June 14, 2004, which is five business days before the date the exchange offer expires.

SUMMARY

The following is a summary of this prospectus. The following summary does not contain all the information that you should consider before deciding whether to tender your old notes in the exchange offer. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated, "Griffon," "we," "us," "our" and similar terms refer to Griffon Corporation.

Our Company

We are a diversified manufacturing company with operations in four business segments: garage doors, installation services, specialty plastic films and electronic information and communication systems. Our garage doors segment designs, manufactures and sells garage doors for use in the residential housing and commercial building markets. The installation services segment sells, installs and services garage doors, garage door openers, manufactured fireplaces, floor coverings, cabinetry and a range of related building products primarily for the new residential housing market. Our specialty plastic films segment develops, produces and sells plastic films and film laminates for use in infant diapers, adult incontinence products, feminine hygiene products and disposable surgical and patient care products. Our electronic information and communication systems segment designs, manufactures, sells and provides logistical support for communications, radar, information, command and control systems for defense and commercial markets.

As of March 31, 2004, we had approximately 5,500 employees. Our principal executive offices are located at 100 Jericho Quadrangle, Jericho, New York 11753. Our telephone number is (516) 938-5544. Our web site is www.griffoncorp.com. Information on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "GFF." For further information concerning Griffon, please see the section of this prospectus titled "Where You Can Find More Information."

Terms of the Exchange Offer

The following is a summary of the terms of the exchange offer. Before you decide whether to tender your old notes in the exchange offer, you should read the detailed description of the exchange offer in the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer" beginning on page 24 and the description of our new notes in the section of this prospectus entitled "Description of Our Notes" beginning on page 33 for further information.

Terms of the Exchange Offer

We are offering \$130 million aggregate principal amount of 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series), which we refer to as the new notes, and \$390,000 in cash in exchange for \$130 million aggregate principal amount of our currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023, which we refer to as the 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (first series), or the old notes. If you elect to tender your old notes in the exchange offer, you will receive from us \$1,000 principal amount of new notes and \$3.00 in cash, which we refer to as the cash consideration, for each \$1,000 principal amount of old notes that you tender. The form and terms of the new notes are identical in all respects to those of the old notes, except that certain conditions to conversion will be modified, as described immediately below under "Conversion Price and Conversion Rights."

You may tender all, some or none of your old notes.

Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Terms of the Exchange Offer" beginning on page 24 of this prospectus.

Conversion Price and Conversion Rights

Holders may surrender notes for conversion into shares of our common stock prior to the maturity date in the following circumstances:

- in the case of the old notes, during any calendar quarter commencing after the issuance of the old notes, if our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 120% of the conversion price per share of our common stock on that last trading day (the "market price condition" for the old notes);
- in the case of the new notes, during any calendar quarter commencing after the issuance of the new notes, if our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 150% of the conversion price per share of our common stock on that last trading day (the "market price condition" for the new notes);
- if we have called the particular notes for redemption and the redemption has not yet occurred;
- subject to certain exceptions, during the five trading day period after any five consecutive trading day period in which the trading price of \$1,000 principal amount of the notes for each day of such five-day period was less than 95% of the product of our common stock price on that day multiplied by the number of shares issuable upon conversion of \$1,000 principal amount of the notes (the "trading price condition"); provided, that if on the date of conversion pursuant to the trading price condition, the price of our common stock is greater than the effective conversion price but less than 120% (in the case of the old notes), or 150% (in the case of the new notes), of the conversion price, then you will receive, in lieu of shares of our common stock based on the conversion rate, shares of our common stock with a value equal to the principal amount of your notes plus accrued but unpaid interest (including contingent interest), if any, as of the conversion date; or

- upon the occurrence of specified corporate transactions described under "Description of Our Notes—Conversion Rights."

Holders may convert any outstanding notes into shares of our common stock at a conversion price per share of \$24.13, subject to adjustments. This represents a conversion rate of approximately 41.4422 shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes. The conversion price will not be adjusted for accrued interest or contingent interest. Except as described above, upon conversion, the holder will not receive any cash payment representing accrued but unpaid interest. Instead, such accrued interest will be deemed paid by the shares of common stock received upon conversion.

Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "Description of Our Notes—Conversion Rights" beginning on page 34 for more information.

In respect of any note presented for conversion, in lieu of delivering shares of common stock upon conversion of that note, we may elect to pay the holder cash in an amount equal to the product of the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of that note and the average of the common stock price for the five consecutive trading days following either:

- our notice of our election to deliver cash, which we must give within two business days after receiving a conversion notice unless we have earlier given notice of redemption as described herein; or
- the conversion date, if we have given notice of redemption of that note specifying that we intend to deliver cash upon conversion after the redemption notice.

Expiration Date; Extension

The exchange offer and the associated withdrawal rights will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on Monday, June 21, 2004, or on any subsequent date to which we extend it. We may extend the expiration date of the exchange offer for any reason. If we extend the expiration date of the exchange offer, we will issue a press release or other public announcement no later than 9:00 a.m., Eastern time, on the next business day after the previously scheduled expiration date. You must tender your old notes prior to the expiration of the exchange offer if you wish to participate in the exchange offer.

Please read the sections of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Expiration Date" beginning on page 24 and "The Exchange Offer—Extensions; Amendments; Termination" beginning on page 25 for more information.

Conditions to the Exchange Offer; Termination

The exchange offer is subject to the conditions that (i) the registration statement covering our new notes and any post-effective amendment to the registration statement be effective under the Securities Act of 1933 and (ii) the new notes indenture be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The exchange offer is also subject to other customary conditions which we may waive. We reserve the right to terminate the exchange offer prior to our acceptance of any previously tendered old notes if any of these conditions are not satisfied.

Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Conditions for Completion of the Exchange Offer" beginning on page 29 for more information.

Withdrawal Rights

You may withdraw any or all of the old notes that you tender in the exchange offer, at any time before the expiration of the exchange offer, by delivering a written notice of withdrawal to American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, the exchange agent, before the expiration of the exchange offer. If you change your mind after withdrawing any or all of our old notes that you tender in the exchange offer, you may retender any or all of your old notes by again following the exchange offer procedures before the expiration of the exchange offer.

Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Withdrawal Rights" beginning on page 29 for more information.

Procedures for Tendering Old Notes

If you hold any of the old notes through a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, you should contact that person promptly if you wish to tender any or all of your old notes in the exchange offer and direct them to tender your old notes. Tenders of your old notes will be effected by book-entry transfers through the Depository Trust Company, or DTC. If you hold any of the old notes through a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, you may also comply with the procedures for guaranteed delivery described on page 27.

If you hold your old notes through DTC and you wish to tender any or all of your old notes, you must tender your old notes through DTC's Automated Tender Offer Program (commonly known as "ATOP"). DTC participants that are accepting the exchange offer must transmit their acceptance to DTC.

Please do not send letters of transmittal to us. You should send the letters of transmittal to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the exchange agent, at one of its offices listed in the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Information and Exchange Agent" on page 32, or on the back cover of this prospectus. The agent can answer your questions regarding how to tender your old notes in the exchange offer.

Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Procedures for Tendering Old Notes" beginning on page 25 for more information.

Accrued and Unpaid Interest on Old Notes

Upon completion of the exchange offer, we will pay holders of our old notes accrued and unpaid interest on any of our old notes that are tendered and accepted for exchange in the exchange offer. The amount of accrued interest will be calculated from the last interest payment date to, but excluding, the closing date of the exchange offer.

Interest on Our Notes

We will pay interest on our notes in cash at a rate of 4.0% per year, payable semi-annually on January 18 and July 18 of each year.

Contingent Interest

In addition to regular interest on the notes, beginning with the six-month interest period beginning July 18, 2010, contingent interest will also accrue during any six-month interest period if the average trading price of a note for the five trading day period ending on the third trading day immediately preceding the first day of such six-month interest period equals \$1,200 or more. During any period in which contingent interest accrues, the contingent interest payable on the notes will be 0.50% per annum based on such average trading price.

Ranking

The old notes are and the new notes will be our unsecured subordinated obligations. The old notes and the new notes rank equally. The notes will rank junior in right of payment to all of our existing and future senior indebtedness. We and our subsidiaries are not restricted by the notes or the indentures under which the notes are issued from incurring additional indebtedness or liens.

Optional Redemption

We may redeem some or all of the notes at any time on or after July 26, 2010, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes, plus accrued but unpaid interest, up to but not including the date of redemption, payable in cash. See "Description of Our Notes—Optional Redemption of the Notes."

Repurchase of Notes at the Option of the Holder	You may require us to purchase all or a portion of your notes on July 18, 2010, 2013 and 2018 for a purchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued but unpaid interest, up to, but not including, the date of repurchase, payable in cash. See "Description of Our Notes—Repurchase of Notes at the Option of the Holder."
Change in Control	If a change in control, as that term is defined in "Description of Our Notes—Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control," occurs, you will have the right to require us to repurchase all or a portion of your notes for a period of time after the change in control. The repurchase price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes, plus accrued but unpaid interest, to the date of repurchase, payable in cash.
Information and Exchange Agent	American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. For information regarding the exchange offer, banks, brokers and others call toll free: (877) 248-6417. Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Information and Exchange Agent" on page 32 for more information.
Risk Factors	You should consider carefully the matters described under "Risk Factors," as well as other information in this prospectus and in the related letter of transmittal, including the information that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus as listed or described in the section of this prospectus entitled "Where You Can Find Additional Information" on page 62.
Deciding Whether to Tender Your Old Notes in the Exchange Offer	Neither we nor our directors or officers make any recommendation as to whether you should tender or refrain from tendering all or any portion of your old notes in the exchange offer. Further, we have not authorized anyone to make any such recommendation. You must make your own decision whether to tender your old notes in the exchange offer based on your own financial position and requirements, and, if so, the aggregate amount of your old notes that you wish to tender, after reading this prospectus and the related letter of transmittal for the exchange offer, as well as consulting with your advisors, if any.

Consequences of Not Exchanging Old Notes

If you do not exchange all of your old notes in the exchange offer, the liquidity and trading market for any of our old notes that are not tendered in the exchange offer will likely be impaired if and to the extent that any other of our old notes are tendered and accepted for exchange in the exchange offer. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., which has advised us that it is the beneficial owner of \$73,935,000 principal amount of the outstanding old notes, or approximately 57% of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the old notes, has informed us that it intends to tender all of the old notes that it owns in the exchange offer.

Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Consequences of Exchanging or Failing to Exchange Old Notes" beginning on page 32 for more information.

Tax Consequences

Please read the section of this prospectus entitled "Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations" beginning on page 57 for more information. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the specific tax consequences to you of the exchange offer.

Regulatory Compliance

Except as described herein, there are no federal or state regulatory requirements with which we must comply and no federal or state regulatory approvals that must be obtained in connection with the exchange offer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE EXCHANGE OFFER

- Q:** What is the exchange offer?
- A:** In the exchange offer, we are offering to exchange \$1,000 principal amount of our newly issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series), which we refer to as the new notes, plus \$3.00 in cash, which we refer to as the cash consideration, for each \$1,000 principal amount of our currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023, which we refer to as the 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (first series), or the old notes.
- Q:** Why are you making the exchange offer?
- A:** We are making the exchange offer because changing the condition of conversion of the old notes will reduce potential volatility on our reported earnings per share and reduce the likelihood of dilution to our stockholders, which we believe will be in our best interest and in the best interest of our stockholders.
- Q:** What will I receive in exchange for my old notes under the exchange offer?
- A:** If you tender your old notes in the exchange offer, you will receive, for each \$1,000 in principal amount of old notes tendered, \$1,000 in principal amount of the new notes plus \$3.00 in cash.
- Q:** In what respects do the old notes differ from the new notes?
- A:** The form and terms of the new notes are identical in all respects to those of the old notes, except that certain conditions to the conversion of the notes will be modified. The old notes may be converted into our common stock if, during any quarter, our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 120% of the conversion price on that last trading day. The conversion price of the old notes is currently \$24.13. The new notes may be converted if, during any quarter, our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 150% of the conversion price on that last trading day. In addition, the trading price condition will be modified as described below under "Description of Our Notes—Conversion Rights—Conversion Upon Satisfaction of Trading Price Condition."
- Q:** Who can participate in the exchange offer?
- A:** Any holder of old notes may exchange some or all of their old notes for new notes and the cash consideration pursuant to the exchange offer.
- Q:** How do I tender my old notes in the exchange offer, and to whom should I send my old notes?
- A:** If you hold old notes through a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, you should instruct your nominee to tender your old notes for you. If you hold old notes in your own name, you should complete the letter of transmittal included with this prospectus and deliver the completed letter of transmittal with the outstanding notes to the exchange agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. The address and telephone number for the information and exchange agent is on the back cover of this prospectus.
- Q:** How long will the exchange offer remain open?
- A:** The exchange offer will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on June 21, 2004, unless we extend it.

- Q:** How will I be notified if the exchange offer is extended?
- A:** If we decide to extend the exchange offer, we will notify the exchange agent. We also will issue a press release or make another form of public announcement of the extension no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the first business day after the previously scheduled expiration date.
- Q:** If I tender my old notes, when will I receive my new notes and the cash consideration?
- A:** If you validly tender your old notes in the exchange offer, and provided that all conditions to the exchange offer are met and if we have not elected to terminate the exchange offer, you will receive the new notes and the cash consideration promptly after the expiration of the exchange offer.
- Q:** May I tender a portion of the old notes that I hold?
- A:** Yes. You do not have to tender all of the old notes that you hold in order to participate in this exchange offer.
- Q:** May I revoke my tender of old notes at any time?
- A:** Yes. If you hold old notes through a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee, you can revoke the tender of your old notes prior to the expiration of the exchange offer by directing your nominee to contact the exchange agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, at its address on the back cover of this prospectus. If you hold old notes in your own name, you can revoke the tender of our old notes prior the expiration of the exchange offer by sending a written notice of withdrawal to the exchange agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, at its address on the back cover of this prospectus.
- Q:** Is the exchange offer conditioned upon a minimum number of your old notes being tendered in the exchange offer?
- A:** No.
- Q:** Will I receive any interest on the old notes that has been accruing since the last payment of interest?
- A:** Yes. If we complete this exchange offer, you will receive accrued interest on the old notes from the last interest payment date to, but excluding, the closing date of the exchange offer. Interest on the new notes will start accruing on the closing date of the exchange offer.
- Q:** What happens if I do not tender my old notes in the exchange offer?
- A:** You will keep your old notes. However, if a significant number of our old notes are tendered and accepted for exchange in the exchange offer, the liquidity and the trading market for our old notes will likely be impaired.
- Q:** What should I do if I have additional questions about the exchange offer?
- A:** If you have any questions about the exchange offer, need additional copies of the exchange offer materials, or otherwise need assistance in connection with the exchange offer, please contact the information agent at the address and telephone number listed below.

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company
59 Maiden Lane, Plaza Level
New York, New York 10038

Banks, brokers and others call toll free: (877) 248-6417

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the securities laws. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ.

All statements other than statements of historical fact included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including without limitation statements regarding our financial position, business strategy, and the plans and objectives of our management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. When used in this prospectus, words such as "anticipate", "believe", "estimate", "expect", "intend" and similar expressions, as they relate to the company or our management, identify forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are based on the beliefs of our management, as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to our management. Actual results could differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including but not limited to, business and economic conditions, competitive factors and pricing pressures, capacity and supply constraints. Such statements reflect our views with respect to future events and are subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, results of operations, growth strategy and liquidity. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We do not undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect future events or circumstances or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

You should carefully read the factors described in the "Risk Factors" section of this prospectus for a description of certain risks that could, among other things, cause our actual results to differ from these forward-looking statements.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risks described below, as well as the other information appearing in this prospectus and the documents to which we refer you, including those incorporated by reference, before you decide whether to tender your old notes in the exchange offer. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not presently know or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects.

If any of the following risks actually occur, they could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results or prospects. In that case, the trading price of our old notes, our new notes and our common stock could decline.

Risks Related to the Exchange Offer

There is no public market for the new notes, and you may find it difficult to sell your new notes.

While the new notes will be eligible for trading in the PORTAL Market, there is no public market for the new notes. We do not intend to apply for listing or quotation of the new notes on any exchange. Therefore, we do not know the extent to which investor interest will lead to the development of a trading market or how liquid that market might be, nor can we make any assurances regarding the ability of new note holders to sell their new notes, the amount of new notes to be outstanding following the exchange offer or the price at which the new notes might be sold. As a result, the market price of the new notes could be adversely affected. Historically, the market for notes such as these has been subject to disruptions that have caused substantial volatility in the prices of such securities. Any such disruptions may have an adverse effect on holders of the new notes.

The liquidity of any trading market that currently exists for the old notes will likely be impacted due to the exchange offer, and holders of old notes who do not tender in the exchange offer may find it more difficult to sell their old notes.

There is currently a limited trading market for the old notes. To the extent that old notes are tendered and accepted for exchange in the exchange offer, the trading market for the remaining old notes will be even more limited or may cease altogether. A debt security with a smaller outstanding aggregate principal amount, or "float," may command a lower price than would a comparable debt security with a larger float. Therefore, the market price for the unexchanged old notes may be adversely affected. The reduced float may also make the trading prices of the old notes more volatile. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., which has advised us that it is the beneficial owner of \$73,935,000 principal amount of the outstanding old notes, or approximately 57% of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the old notes, has informed us that it intends to tender all of the old notes that it owns in this exchange offer.

Holders of new notes may not be able to convert their new notes into shares of our common stock in some situations where holders of old notes may affect such conversion.

If you tender your old notes, due to the different market price condition in the new notes, you may convert your new notes into shares of our common stock only if our common stock appreciates, within a specified period, more than it would have had to appreciate for the old notes to be eligible for conversion, unless one of the other events permitting conversion has occurred. The market price condition for the old notes provides that the old notes may be converted if, during any quarter, our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 120% of the conversion price per share of our common stock on that last trading day. In contrast, the market price condition for the new notes will provide that the new notes may be

converted if, during any quarter, our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 150% of the conversion price per share of our common stock on that last trading day. Based on the current conversion price, holders of old notes will be able to convert their notes into shares of our common stock if our common stock price exceeds \$28.96 for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days, while the price of our common stock must exceed \$36.20 for the same period to enable holders of new notes to convert their notes. Our common stock price on May 13, 2004 was \$22.57 per share. As a result, holders of new notes may not be able to realize some of the conversion value of their new notes as compared to the old notes. The \$3.00 cash consideration we will pay in the exchange offer may not be sufficient to compensate for such loss.

Our board of directors has not made a recommendation with regard to whether or not you should tender your old notes in the exchange offer, nor has our company obtained a third-party determination that the exchange offer is fair to holders of the old notes.

The exchange offer has been unanimously approved by our board of directors. We are not, however, making a recommendation whether holders of old notes should exchange their notes. We have not retained and do not intend to retain any unaffiliated representative to act solely on behalf of the holders for purposes of negotiating the terms of the exchange offer and/or preparing a report concerning the fairness of the exchange offer. We cannot assure holders of the old notes that the value of the new notes plus the cash consideration received in the exchange offer will equal or exceed, at any time, the value of the old notes tendered and we do not take a position as to whether you ought to participate in the exchange offer.

Risks Relating to our Business

We operate in highly competitive industries and may be unable to compete effectively with other companies.

We face intensive competition in each of our markets. We have a number of competitors, some of which are larger and have greater resources than us. We compete primarily on the basis of competitive prices, technical expertise, product differentiation, and quality of products and services. In addition, there can be no assurance that we will not encounter increased competition in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

If we were to lose any of our largest customers, our results of operations could be significantly harmed.

A small number of customers has accounted for a substantial portion of our historical net sales, and we expect that a limited number of customers will continue to represent a substantial portion of our net sales for the foreseeable future. Approximately 23% of our total sales and 75% of our specialty plastic films sales for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003 were made to Procter & Gamble, which is our largest customer in the specialty plastic films segment. The Home Depot, Inc and Menards Inc. are significant customers of our garage doors segment and the Boeing Company and Lockheed Martin Corporation are significant customers of our electronic information and communication systems segments. Our future operating results will continue to substantially depend on the success of our largest customers and our relationships with them. Orders from these customers are subject to fluctuation, and may be reduced materially. Any reduction or delay in sales of our products to one or more of these customers could significantly harm our business. Our operating results will also depend on our ability to successfully develop relationships with additional key customers. We cannot assure you that we will retain our largest customers or that we will be able to recruit additional key customers.

Increases in raw material costs could adversely impact our financial condition and operating results.

We purchase raw materials from various suppliers. While all our raw materials are available from numerous sources, commodity raw materials are subject to fluctuations in price. Because raw materials in the aggregate constitute significant components of our cost of goods sold, such fluctuations could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. There have been recent price increases in plastic resins and steel, which are the basic raw materials used in the manufacture of our specialty plastic films and garage door products, respectively. Our ability to pass on to our customers increases in raw material prices is limited, and there is generally a time lag between our increased costs and our ability to increase our prices. We have not always been able to increase our prices to fully recoup our increased expense levels. In addition, sharp increases in raw material prices are more difficult to pass through to customers in a short period of time and may negatively affect our short-term financial performance.

Trends in the housing sector and in general economic conditions will directly impact our business.

Our businesses in the garage door and the installation industries are influenced by market conditions for new home construction and renovation of existing homes. For the year ended September 30, 2003, approximately 55% of our total net sales were related to new home construction and renovation of existing homes. Trends in the housing sector directly affect our financial performance. Accordingly, the strength of the U.S. economy, the age of existing home stock, job growth, interest rates, consumer confidence and the availability of consumer credit, as well as demographic factors such as the migration into the United States and migration of the population within the United States have an effect on our business. The historically low interest rates in recent periods have generated strong growth in the housing sector. If interest rates increase or there are adverse changes in any of the other factors affecting trends in the housing sector, activities in new housing construction and renovation of existing homes may decrease. Such a decrease may have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

Our electronic information and communication systems business depends heavily upon government contracts.

Our electronic information and communication systems business sells products to the U.S. government primarily as a subcontractor. We are generally a first tier supplier to prime contractors in the defense industry such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems. In the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, U.S. government contracts and subcontracts accounted for approximately 8% of our sales. Our contracts involving the U.S. government may include various risks, including:

- Termination by the government;
- Reduction or modification in the event of changes in the government's requirements or budgetary constraints;
- Increased or unexpected costs causing losses or reduced profits under contracts where our prices are fixed, or unallowable costs under contracts where the government reimburses us for costs and pays an additional premium;
- The failure or inability of the prime contractor to perform its contract in circumstances where we are a subcontractor;
- The failure of the government to exercise options for additional work provided for in the contracts; and

- The government's right in certain circumstances to freely use technology developed under these contracts.

The programs in which we participate may extend for several years, but are normally funded on an annual basis. The U.S. government may not continue to fund programs to which our development projects apply. Even if funding is continued, we may fail to compete successfully to obtain funding pursuant to such programs.

There can be no assurance that the capital expansion program that we are implementing in the specialty plastic films segment will be completed on schedule or that it will generate the revenue and profits anticipated.

Our specialty plastic films segment has implemented a capital expansion program in fiscal year 2003 to support new opportunities with its major customers and to increase capacity throughout its operations. Equipment and plant additions over the next two years are anticipated to total between \$60 and \$70 million. Our new plants and equipment are not yet fully operational and are not yet contributing significantly to revenue. There can be no assurance that this capital expansion program will be completed on schedule or that it will generate the revenue or profits anticipated.

We must continually improve existing products, design and sell new products and manage the costs of research and development in order to compete effectively.

The markets for our specialty plastic films and electronic information and communication systems businesses are characterized by rapid technological change, evolving industry standards and continuous improvements in products. Due to constant changes in these markets, our future success depends on our ability to develop new technologies, products, processes and product applications.

We develop our technologies and products through internally funded research and development and strategic partnerships with our customers. Because it is generally not possible to predict the amount of time required and the costs involved in achieving certain research and development objectives, actual development costs may exceed budgeted amounts and estimated product development schedules may be extended. Our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected if:

- we are unable to improve our existing products on a timely basis;
- our new products are not introduced on a timely basis or do not achieve sufficient market penetration;
- we incur budget overruns or delays in our research and development efforts; or
- our new products experience reliability or quality problems.

The loss of certain key officers or employees could adversely affect us.

The success of our business is materially dependent upon the continued services of certain of our key officers and employees. The loss of such key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

Our businesses are subject to seasonal variations.

Historically, our revenues and earnings are lowest in the second fiscal quarter ending on March 31 and highest in the fourth fiscal quarter ending September 30. The quarterly operating results fluctuation is mainly due to the seasonality in our garage door and installation businesses. The primary revenues of our garage door and installation businesses are driven by residential construction and renovation. Cold weather in the winter months usually reduces the level of building and remodeling

activity in both the home improvement and new construction markets and, accordingly, has an adverse effect on the demand for our garage door products and installation services. Seasonal fluctuation in the demand for our garage door products and installation services could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. Because a high percentage of our manufacturing overhead and operating expenses is relatively fixed throughout the year, operating margins have historically been lower in quarters with lower sales. As a result, our operating results and stock price could be volatile, particularly on a quarterly basis.

We are exposed to a variety of risks relating to our international sales and operations, including local economic and political conditions and fluctuations in exchange rates.

We own properties and conduct operations in Europe and South America through our foreign subsidiaries. Sales of our products from our foreign subsidiaries accounted for approximately 17% of our net sales for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003. These foreign sales could be adversely affected by changes in various foreign countries' political and economic conditions, trade protection measures, differing intellectual property rights and changes in regulatory requirements that restrict the sales of our products or increase our costs. Currency fluctuations between the U.S. dollar and the currencies in the foreign countries or regions in which we do business may have an impact on our future operating results.

We may not be able to protect our proprietary rights.

We rely on a combination of patent, copyright and trademark laws, trade secrets, confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements and other contractual provisions to protect our proprietary rights. Such measures provide only limited protection. We cannot assure you that our means of protecting our proprietary rights will be adequate or that competitors will not independently develop similar technologies.

We are exposed to product liability claims.

We may be exposed to product liability claims in the future relating to the performance of our products or the performance of a product in which any of our products was a component part. There can be no assurance that product liability claims will not be brought against us in the future, either by an injured customer of an end product manufacturer who used one of our products as a component or by a direct purchaser from us. In addition, no assurance can be given that indemnification from our customers or coverage under insurance policies will be adequate to cover future product liability claims against us. Moreover, liability insurance is expensive, difficult to maintain and may be unobtainable in the future on acceptable terms. The amount and scope of any insurance coverage may be inadequate if a product liability claim is successfully asserted against us. Furthermore, if any significant claims are made against us, our business may be adversely affected by any resulting negative publicity.

We have been, and may in the future be, subject to claims and liabilities under environmental laws and regulations.

Our operations and assets are subject to federal, state, local and foreign environmental laws and regulations pertaining to the discharge of materials into the environment, the handling and disposal of wastes, including solid and hazardous wastes, or otherwise relating to health, safety and protection of the environment. We do not expect to make any expenditures with respect to ongoing compliance with or remediation under these environmental laws and regulations that would have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition. However, the applicable requirements under the law may change at any time.

We can also incur environmental liabilities in respect of sites that we no longer own or operate, as well as third party sites to which we sent hazardous materials in the past. We cannot assure you that material costs or liabilities will not be incurred in connection with such claims. A site in Peekskill in the town of Cortland, New York was previously owned and used by two of our subsidiaries. The Peekskill site was sold in December 1982. In 1984, we were advised by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") that random sampling of the Peekskill site indicated concentrations of solvents and other chemicals common to the operations of our subsidiary that used the site. In May 1996, our subsidiary that formerly owned the site entered into a consent order with the DEC to investigate and remediate environmental conditions at this site, including the performance of a remedial investigation and feasibility study. After completing the initial remedial investigation, such subsidiary now is required to perform a supplemental remedial investigation under the consent order. We believe, based on facts presently known to us, that the outcome of this matter will not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial conditions. We cannot assure you, however, that the discovery of presently unknown environmental conditions, changes in environmental laws and regulations or other unanticipated events will not give rise to claims that may involve material expenditures or liabilities.

Our compliance with restrictions and covenants in our debt agreements may limit our ability to take corporate actions and harm our business.

Our debt agreements contain a number of covenants that significantly restrict our ability to issue additional debt and our ability to pay dividends. Under our revolving credit agreement we are also required to comply with specific financial ratios and tests. We may not be able to comply in the future with these covenants or restrictions as a result of events beyond our control, such as prevailing economic, financial and industry conditions. If we default in the compliance of the covenants and restrictions in our debt agreements, our lenders could declare all of the principal and interest amounts outstanding due and payable and terminate their commitments to extend credit to us in the future. If we are unable to secure credit in the future, our business could be harmed.

Risks Relating to an Investment in the Notes and our Common Stock

Our obligations under the notes will be unsecured and will be subordinated to all of our existing and future senior debt.

Our obligations under the notes are unsecured and will rank junior in priority of payment to all of our present and future senior debt. As a result, upon any distribution to our creditors in a bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization or similar proceeding relating to us or our property, the holders of our senior debt will be entitled to be paid in full before any payment may be made with respect to the notes. In the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization or similar proceeding relating to us, holders of the notes will participate with trade creditors and all other holders of our subordinated indebtedness in the assets remaining after we have paid all of our senior debt. In addition, upon a payment default with respect to designated senior debt, a covenant default entitling designated senior debt to accelerate or upon acceleration of the notes, the holders of our senior debt will be entitled to be paid before any payment will be made on the notes. As of March 31, 2004, no amounts were outstanding under our revolving credit agreement. Our borrowings under senior credit facilities may be higher in the future. We also have or may incur new or additional obligations under letters of credit, guarantees, foreign exchange contracts or interest swap contracts that will be senior to our obligations under the notes. The notes and the related indentures do not limit our ability to incur additional indebtedness, liabilities and obligations.

Creditors of our subsidiaries will get paid before you will get paid.

We operate our business through our subsidiaries. Accordingly, we are dependent upon the cash flows of, and receipt of dividends and advances from, or repayments of advances by, our subsidiaries in order to meet our debt obligations, including our obligations under the notes. The notes are not guaranteed by our subsidiaries and, consequently, our subsidiaries are not obligated or required to pay any amounts pursuant to the notes or to make funds available in the form of dividends or advances. In the future, we may change some portion of our business that we operate through our subsidiaries. Any payment of dividends, distributions, loans or advances by our subsidiaries will also be contingent upon our subsidiaries' earnings and are subject to contractual or statutory restrictions.

In addition, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries, upon any subsidiary's bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or similar proceeding, and thus your ability as a holder of the notes to benefit indirectly from such distribution, will be subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that any of our claims as a creditor of such subsidiary may be recognized. As a result, the notes will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities and obligations of our subsidiaries, if any. Therefore, holders of the notes should look only to our assets for payments on the notes. The notes and the related indentures do not limit the ability of any of our subsidiaries to incur additional indebtedness, liabilities or obligations. As of March 31, 2004, our subsidiaries had approximately \$207 million in liabilities.

If we experience a change in control, we may be unable to purchase your notes as required under the indenture.

Upon a change in control, as defined in each indenture, you will have the right to require us to repurchase your notes. If we experience a change in control and do not have sufficient funds to pay the repurchase price for all of the notes you tendered, an event of default under the indenture governing the notes would occur as a result of such failure. In addition, a change in control might breach a covenant under our revolving credit agreement and may be otherwise restricted by that facility, and may be prohibited or limited by, or create an event of default under, other agreements relating to borrowings that we may enter into from time to time. Borrowings under our revolving credit agreement are, and other borrowings are likely to be, senior indebtedness. Therefore, a change in control at a time when we cannot pay for your notes that are tendered as a result of such change in control could result in your receiving substantially less than the principal amount of the notes. See "Description of Our Notes—Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control" and "—Subordination."

Our reported earnings per share may be more volatile because of the conversion contingency provision of the notes.

Holders of the notes are entitled to convert the notes into shares of our common stock, among other circumstances, if the "market price condition" is satisfied. Unless and until this contingency or another conversion contingency is met, the shares of our common stock underlying the notes are not included in the calculation of our basic or fully diluted earnings per share. Should this contingency be met, fully diluted earnings per share would, depending on the relationship between the interest on the notes and the earnings per share of our common stock, be expected to decrease as a result of the inclusion of the underlying shares in the fully diluted earnings per share calculation. Volatility in our stock price could cause this condition to be met in one quarter and not in a subsequent quarter, increasing the volatility of fully diluted earnings per share.

You will recognize income for federal income tax purposes significantly in excess of current cash payments.

We treat the notes as contingent payment debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result of this treatment, if you own the notes, you are required to include amounts in income significantly in excess of the stated interest on the notes. Any gain you recognize will generally be ordinary interest income; any loss will be ordinary loss to the extent of interest on the notes previously included in income and, thereafter, capital loss. There is some uncertainty as to the proper application of the Treasury regulations governing contingent payment debt instruments, and if our treatment were successfully challenged by the Internal Revenue Service, it might be determined that, among other things, you should have accrued interest income at a lower or higher rate, should not have recognized ordinary income upon the conversion, and should have recognized capital gain or loss, rather than ordinary income or loss upon a taxable disposition of the notes. See "Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations."

We expect that the trading value of the notes will be significantly affected by the price of our common stock and other factors.

The market price of the notes is expected to be significantly affected by the market price of our common stock. This may result in greater volatility in the trading value of the notes than would be expected for nonconvertible debt securities. In addition, the notes have a number of features, including conditions to conversion, which, if not met, could result in a holder receiving less than the value of our common stock into which a note would otherwise be convertible. These features could adversely affect the value and the trading prices of the notes.

We may be unable to raise additional financing necessary to conduct our business, make payments when due or refinance our debt.

We may need to raise additional funds in the future in order to implement our business plan, to refinance our debt or to acquire complementary businesses or products. Any required additional financing may be unavailable on terms favorable to us, or at all. If we raise additional funds by issuing equity securities, holders of common stock may experience significant dilution of their ownership interest and these securities may have rights senior to those of the holders of our common stock.

Our indebtedness and interest expense will limit our cash flow and could adversely affect our operations and our ability to make full payment on your notes.

Our indebtedness poses risks to our business, including the risks that:

- we could use a substantial portion of our consolidated cash flow from operations to pay principal and interest on our debt, thereby reducing the funds available for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, product development and other general corporate purposes;
- insufficient cash flow from operations may force us to sell assets, or seek additional capital, which we may be unable to do at all or on terms favorable to us; and
- our level of indebtedness may make us more vulnerable to economic or industry downturns.

We have the ability to issue additional equity securities, which would lead to dilution of our issued and outstanding common stock.

The issuance of additional equity securities or securities convertible into equity securities would result in dilution of existing stockholders' equity interests in us. We are authorized to issue, without stockholder approval, 3,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, which may give other stockholders dividend, conversion, voting, and liquidation rights, among other rights, which may be

superior to the rights of holders of our common stock. Our board of directors has the authority to issue, without vote or action of stockholders, shares of preferred stock in one or more series, and has the ability to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of any such series. Any such series of preferred stock could contain dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption prices, liquidation preferences or other rights superior to the rights of holders of our common stock. Our board of directors has no present intention of issuing any such preferred stock, but reserves the right to do so in the future. In addition, we are authorized to issue, without stockholder approval, up to 85,000,000 shares of common stock, of which approximately 29,521,130 shares were outstanding as of March 31, 2004. We are also authorized to issue, without stockholder approval, securities convertible into either shares of common stock or preferred stock.

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "GFF." As of May 13, 2004, there were approximately 14,800 holders of record of our common stock. The following table sets forth for the fiscal quarters indicated the high and low sale prices for our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange.

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
2002:		
Third quarter	\$ 20.00	\$ 16.24
Fourth quarter	18.40	10.65
2003:		
First quarter	\$ 13.86	\$ 10.27
Second quarter	14.49	12.28
Third quarter	16.55	12.85
Fourth quarter	19.21	15.75
2004:		
First quarter	\$ 21.18	\$ 17.98
Second quarter	23.35	19.71
Third quarter (through May 13)	23.02	20.52

CAPITALIZATION

The table below shows our capitalization as of March 31, 2004 on an actual basis and on an as adjusted basis, assuming that all of the old notes are exchanged pursuant to the exchange offer. This information should be read together with our consolidated financial statements, including the notes thereto, and other financial information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, or contained in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find Additional Information."

	As of March 31, 2004	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(in thousands)	
Debt:		
Short-term debt, including current portion of long-term debt	\$ 11,647	\$ 11,647
4.0% Contingent convertible subordinated notes Due 2023 (first series)	130,000	—
4.0% Contingent convertible subordinated notes Due 2023 (second series)	—	130,000
Other long-term debt	23,524	23,524
	165,171	165,171
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, par value \$0.25 per share; 85,000,000 shares authorized; 37,917,039 shares issued	9,479	9,479
Capital in excess of par value	113,764	113,764
Retained earnings	306,403	306,403
Treasury shares, at cost, 8,395,909 shares	(122,957)	(122,957)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(3,882)	(3,882)
Deferred compensation	(3,268)	(3,268)
	299,539	299,539
Total capitalization	\$ 464,710	\$ 464,710

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected consolidated operating data for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2002 and 2003 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of September 30, 2002 and 2003 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Please refer to the complete consolidated financial statements and related notes for more information.

The selected consolidated operating data for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001 has been derived from our consolidated financial statements audited by Arthur Andersen LLP that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The selected consolidated operating data for the fiscal years ended September 30, 1999 and 2000 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of September 30, 1999, 2000 and 2001 have been derived from our consolidated financial statements audited by Arthur Andersen LLP that are not included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See "Experts."

The selected consolidated operating data for the six months ended March 31, 2003 and March 31, 2004 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of March 31, 2004 are derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements, and include, in the opinion of management, all adjustments, including normal recurring adjustments, necessary to present fairly the results of operations and financial position for the periods presented. These results are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for future periods.

	Years Ended September 30,					Six Months Ended March 31,	
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003	2004
(in thousands, except ratios and per share amounts)							
Operating Data:							
Net Sales	\$ 1,032,697	\$ 1,118,386	\$ 1,160,125	\$ 1,192,604	\$ 1,254,650	\$ 579,484	\$ 656,138
Costs and expenses(1)	994,504	1,063,464	1,088,711	1,125,087	1,168,247	545,833	608,138
Income from operations	38,193	54,922	71,414	67,517	86,403	33,651	48,000
Interest expense	(7,871)	(11,785)	(11,065)	(4,569)	(4,867)	(2,092)	(4,090)
Interest income and other, net	1,759	312	1,378	1,455	1,529	758	1,096
Income before income taxes	32,081	43,449	61,727	64,403	83,065	32,317	45,006
Provision for income taxes	11,870	17,380	25,308	22,506	29,876	12,280	16,652
Income before minority interest and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle	20,211	26,069	36,419	41,897	53,189	20,037	28,354
Minority Interest	—	(1,189)	(5,826)	(7,843)	(10,167)	(4,500)	(6,577)
Income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principal	20,211	24,880	30,593	34,054	43,022	15,537	21,777
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle, net of income taxes(2)	—	(5,290)	—	(24,118)	—	—	—
Net income	\$ 20,211	\$ 19,590	\$ 30,593	\$ 9,936	\$ 43,022	\$ 15,537	\$ 21,777
Basic earnings per share of common stock:							
Income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle	\$.60	\$.75	\$.93	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.33	\$.47	\$.73
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle	—	(.16)	—	(.73)	—	—	—
Net income	\$.60	\$.59	\$.93	\$.30	\$ 1.33	\$.47	\$.73
Diluted earnings per share of common stock:							
Income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle	\$.60	\$.75	\$.92	\$.97	\$ 1.28	\$.46	\$.69
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle	—	(.16)	—	(.69)	—	—	—
Net income	\$.60	\$.59	\$.92	\$.28	\$ 1.28	\$.46	\$.69
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges:	2.6	2.8	3.6	5.2	6.3		5.7

(1) Includes charges of \$3,500 in 1999 and \$10,200 in 2002 to divest operations and facilities.

(2) Includes changes in accounting principle to adopt newly issued accounting standards relating to accounting for start-up costs and goodwill.

	At September 30,					At March 31,	
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
(in thousands)							
Balance Sheet Data:							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 21,242	\$ 26,616	\$ 40,096	\$ 45,749	\$ 69,816	\$ 58,540	
Working capital	189,023	191,663	205,878	193,194	249,620	251,965	
Total assets	533,440	582,026	584,993	587,694	678,730	696,293	
Convertible subordinated notes	—	—	—	—	130,000	130,000	
Other long-term debt, less current portion	127,652	125,916	108,615	74,640	26,265	23,524	
Stockholders' equity	250,221	263,961	293,853	292,969	284,054	299,539	

THE EXCHANGE OFFER

Terms of the Exchange Offer

This prospectus and the related letter of transmittal for the exchange offer set forth the terms and conditions of the exchange offer.

We are making the exchange offer because changing the condition of conversion of the old notes will reduce potential volatility on our reported earnings per share and reduce the likelihood of dilution to our stockholders, which we believe will be in our best interest and in the best interest of our stockholders. Under this exchange offer, we are offering to exchange \$1,000 principal amount of our newly issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series) and \$3.00 in cash for each \$1,000 principal amount of our currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (first series). Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., which has advised us that it is the beneficial owner of \$73,935,000 principal amount of the outstanding old notes, or approximately 57% of the aggregate principal amount of the old notes, has informed us that it intends to tender all of the old notes that it owns in this exchange offer.

At the time the new notes are issued on the closing date of the exchange offer, we will pay, in cash, to holders of old notes tendered in the exchange offer all accrued and unpaid interest on such old notes to, but excluding, the closing date for the exchange offer. Interest on the new notes will begin to accrue as of the closing date of the exchange offer.

We will pay the cash portion of the exchange consideration on the settlement date, which will be promptly after the expiration date of the exchange offer. We expect that the settlement date will be one business day after the expiration date. We will make all payments by the deposit of immediately available funds with the exchange agent. The exchange agent will act as agent for tendering holders for the purpose of receiving payments from us and transmitting the payments to the holders. The exchange agent will pay DTC the aggregate amount of the cash we owe holders to be delivered in exchange for the old notes held in global form tendered and accepted in the exchange offer, and holders will receive the applicable portion of such cash pursuant to the applicable procedures established by DTC and its participants.

You may tender all, some or none of your old notes.

Holders must tender old notes in a principal amount of \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000. The new notes will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 principal amount or integral multiples thereof.

The exchange offer is not being made to, and we will not accept tenders of old notes from, holders of old notes in any jurisdiction in which the exchange offer, or the acceptance of the exchange offer, would not be in compliance with the securities or "blue sky" laws of that jurisdiction. Our board of directors and officers do not make any recommendation to the holders of old notes as to whether or not to tender all or any portion of their old notes in the exchange offer. In addition, we have not authorized anyone to make any recommendation. You must make your own decision whether to tender your old notes in the exchange offer and, if so, the amount of your old notes to tender.

Expiration Date

The expiration date for the exchange offer is 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on June 21, 2004, unless we extend the exchange offer. We may, at any time and from time to time, extend the expiration date for the exchange offer for any reason, subject to applicable law. The last date on which tenders of old notes will be accepted, which is June 21, 2004, or any later date to which the exchange offer may be extended, is referred to in this prospectus as the expiration date. Subject to the conditions described below, and assuming that we have not previously elected to amend in any respect the exchange offer for any reason or no reason, in our sole and absolute discretion, we will accept for exchange all old

notes that are properly tendered on or prior to the expiration date and not withdrawn in the manner described below. See the section of this prospectus entitled "—Conditions for Completion of the Exchange Offer." The form and terms of the new notes are described in this prospectus under the caption "Description of Our Notes."

Extensions; Amendments; Termination

We expressly reserve the right, in our sole and absolute discretion and for any reason, to:

- delay the acceptance of existing notes for exchange;
- extend the time period during which the exchange offer is open, by giving oral or written notice of an extension to the holders of old notes in the manner described below;
- amend the terms of the exchange offer, other than the condition that the registration statement be effective under the Securities Act of 1933; and
- terminate the exchange offer.

If we consider an amendment to the exchange offer to be material, or if we waive a material condition of the exchange offer, we will promptly disclose the amendment in a prospectus supplement, and if required by law, we will extend the exchange offer for a period of five to ten business days.

We will give oral or written notice of any (1) extension, (2) amendment, (3) non-acceptance or (4) termination to the holders of the old notes as promptly as practicable. In the case of any extension, we will issue a press release or other public announcement no later than 9:00 a.m., Eastern time, on the next business day after the previously scheduled expiration date.

Procedures for Tendering Old Notes

Your tender to us of old notes and our acceptance of your tender will constitute a binding agreement between you and us upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus and in the related letter of transmittal for the exchange offer. By signing the letter of transmittal or delivering an agent's message pursuant to DTC's Automated Tender Offer Program (commonly known as "ATOP") procedures, as described below, you will be deemed to have made the representations and warranties contained in the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer in connection with your tender of old notes in the exchange offer.

All of the old notes are evidenced by one or more global notes that have been deposited with the trustee for the old notes as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC. Therefore, to validly tender old notes in the exchange offer, you must comply with the procedures described below.

Tender of Old Notes Held Through a Custodian

If you are a beneficial holder of old notes that are held of record by a bank, depository institution, broker, dealer, trust company or other nominee and you wish to tender your old notes in the exchange offer, you must contact such registered holder promptly and instruct the custodian to tender your old notes on your behalf. Your custodian will provide you with their instruction letter, which you must use to give these instructions.

Tender of Old Notes Held Through DTC

If you are a beneficial owner of old notes that are held of record by DTC or its nominee, through authority granted by DTC, you must direct the DTC participant through which your old notes are held in DTC to tender your old notes on your behalf in accordance with the procedures described below. To

effectively tender old notes that are held through DTC, DTC participants should electronically transmit their acceptance through ATOP, for which the transaction will be eligible, and DTC will then credit the exchange agent's account, verify the acceptance and send an agent's message to the exchange agent for its acceptance.

Delivery of old notes that are tendered in the exchange offer must be made to the exchange agent pursuant to the book-entry delivery procedures described below or the tendering DTC participant must comply with the guaranteed delivery procedures described below. No letters of transmittal will be required to tender old notes through ATOP.

To tender old notes in the exchange offer:

- the exchange agent must receive: (1) either a completed and signed letter of transmittal for the exchange offer, or an electronic confirmation pursuant to DTC's ATOP system indicating the principal amount of old notes to be tendered in the exchange offer and any other documents, if any, required by the letter of transmittal, and (2) prior to the expiration date of the exchange offer, a confirmation of book-entry transfer of such old notes into the exchange agent's account at DTC, in accordance with the procedures for book-entry transfer described below; or
- the holder of such old notes must comply with the guaranteed delivery procedures described below.

Book-Entry Delivery Procedures

Your old notes must be tendered by book-entry transfer. The exchange agent will establish an account with respect to the old notes at DTC for purposes of the exchange offer within two business days after the date of this prospectus. Any financial institution that is a participant in DTC may make book-entry delivery of old notes by having DTC transfer such old notes into the exchange agent's account at DTC in accordance with DTC's procedures for transfer. Although your old notes may be tendered through book-entry transfer at the DTC facility, the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer (or a facsimile of it) or an electronic confirmation pursuant to DTC's ATOP system, with any required signature guarantees and any other required documents, if any, must be transmitted to and received or confirmed by the exchange agent for the exchange offer at its address listed below under "Information and Exchange Agent" and on the back cover of this prospectus prior to the expiration of the exchange offer. You or your broker must ensure that the exchange agent receives an agent's message from DTC confirming the book-entry transfer of your old notes. An agent's message is a message transmitted by DTC and received by the exchange agent that forms a part of the book-entry confirmation, which states that DTC has received an express acknowledgement from the participant in DTC tendering the notes that such participant agrees to be bound by the terms of the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer. Delivery of documents to DTC in accordance with its procedures does not constitute delivery to the exchange agent. If you are an institution which is a participant in DTC's book-entry transfer facility, you should follow the same procedures that are applicable to persons holding old notes through a financial institution.

Do not send letters of transmittal for the exchange offer or other required documents to us.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all necessary materials get to the exchange agent before the expiration of the exchange offer. If the exchange agent does not receive all of the required materials before the expiration of the exchange offer, your old notes will not be validly tendered in the exchange offer.

Any old notes that are not accepted for exchange pursuant to the exchange offer for any reason will be returned without expense to the tendering holder as promptly as practicable after the expiration or termination of the exchange offer.

We will have accepted the validity of old notes tendered in the exchange offer if and when we give oral or written notice to the exchange agent for the exchange offer. The exchange agent will act as the tendering holders' agent for purposes of receiving the new notes from us. If we do not accept any old notes tendered in the exchange offer for exchange because of an invalid tender or the occurrence of any other event, the exchange agent will return those old notes tendered in the exchange offer to the holder thereof, without expense, promptly after the expiration or termination of the exchange offer via book-entry transfer through DTC.

Our Interpretations Are Binding

We will determine in our sole and absolute discretion, all questions as to the validity, form, eligibility, time of receipt, acceptance and withdrawal of old notes tendered in the exchange offer. Our determination will be final and binding on all parties. We reserve the absolute right to reject any and all particular old notes that are not properly tendered in the exchange offer or to not accept any particular old note if the acceptance might, in our judgment or our counsel's judgment, be unlawful. We also reserve the absolute right to waive any defects or irregularities or conditions of the exchange offer (except as described in this prospectus) as to any particular old notes, either before or after the expiration date of the exchange offer, including the right to waive the ineligibility of any holder who seeks to tender old notes in the exchange offer. Tenders of old notes will not be deemed to have been made until such irregularities have been cured or waived. Our interpretation of the terms and conditions of the exchange offer as to any particular old note either before or after the expiration date of the exchange offer, including the related letter of transmittal for the exchange offer and the instructions to such letter of transmittal, will be final and binding on all parties. Unless waived, any defects or irregularities in connection with tenders of old notes in the exchange offer must be cured within such reasonable period of time as we shall determine. Neither we, the exchange agent nor any other person shall be under any duty to give notification of any defect or irregularity with respect to any tender of old notes in the exchange offer, nor shall we or any of them incur any liability for failure to give such notification.

Guaranteed Delivery Procedures

If you desire to tender your old notes and you cannot complete the procedures for book-entry transfer described above on a timely basis, you may still tender your old notes in the exchange offer if:

- you tender your old notes through an eligible institution;
- prior to the expiration of the exchange offer, the exchange agent receives from the eligible institution a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal for the exchange offer (or a facsimile copy of it) or an electronic confirmation pursuant to DTC's ATOP system, and notice of guaranteed delivery, substantially in the form provided by us, by facsimile transmission, mail or hand delivery, that:
 - sets forth the name and address of the holder of old notes and the amount of old notes being tendered in the exchange offer;
 - states that the tender is being made thereby; and
 - guarantees that within three trading days after the expiration date of the exchange offer, a book-entry confirmation of delivery and any other documents required by the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer, if any, will be deposited by the eligible institution with the exchange agent; and
- book-entry confirmation of delivery and all other documents, if any, required by the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer are received by the exchange agent within three trading days after the expiration date of the exchange offer.

The notice of guaranteed delivery relating to the exchange offer must be sent by hand delivery or by facsimile to the exchange agent and must include a guaranty by an eligible institution in the form set forth in the notice of guaranteed delivery relating to the exchange offer.

Acceptance of Old Notes for Exchange; Delivery of New Notes and Cash Consideration

Subject to our right to amend the exchange offer at any time in our sole and absolute discretion prior to the expiration date of the exchange offer, and upon satisfaction or waiver of all of the conditions to the exchange offer, we will accept, promptly after the expiration date, all old notes properly tendered and not withdrawn, and will issue the new notes promptly after acceptance of the old notes. The section of this prospectus entitled "—Conditions for Completion of the Exchange Offer" provides further information regarding the conditions to the exchange offer. For purposes of the exchange offer, we shall be deemed to have accepted properly tendered old notes for exchange when, as and if we have given oral or written notice to the exchange agent, with written confirmation of any oral notice to be given promptly after giving such notice.

Any old notes we acquire pursuant to the exchange offer will be retired. The new notes will be issued only in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000. Under this exchange offer, we are offering to exchange \$1,000 aggregate principal amount of our newly issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series) and \$3.00 in cash for each \$1,000 aggregate principal amount of our currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (first series), that are validly tendered. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., which has advised us that it is the beneficial owner of \$73,935,000 principal amount of the outstanding old notes, or approximately 57% of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the outstanding old notes, has informed us that it intends to tender all of the old notes that it owns in this exchange offer. Old notes accepted for exchange pursuant to the exchange offer will cease to accrue interest from and after the date of consummation of the exchange offer. At the time the new notes are issued on the closing date of the exchange offer, we will pay to holders of the old notes tendered for exchange all accrued and unpaid interest on such old notes to, but excluding, the closing date for the exchange offer. Interest on the new notes will begin to accrue as of the closing date of the exchange offer. In all cases, issuance of new notes for old notes that are accepted for exchange pursuant to the exchange offer will be made only after timely receipt by the exchange agent of:

- a timely book-entry confirmation of such old notes into the exchange agent's account at the book-entry transfer facility;
- a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal for the exchange offer or an electronic confirmation of the submitting holder's acceptance through DTC's ATOP system; and
- all other required documents, if any.

If we do not accept any old notes tendered in the exchange offer for any reason described in the terms and conditions of the exchange offer, or if old notes are submitted for a greater principal amount than the holder desires to exchange, the unaccepted or non-exchanged old notes tendered by book-entry transfer into the exchange agent's account at the book-entry transfer facility will be returned in accordance with the book-entry procedures described above, and the old notes that are not exchanged will be credited to an account maintained with DTC, as promptly as practicable after the expiration or termination of the exchange offer.

We will deposit the cash for the exchange offer with the exchange agent prior to the closing date of the exchange offer, which closing date shall promptly follow the expiration date of the exchange offer. If the old notes are held in physical certificates, the exchange agent will deliver the holder a check in the amount of cash that we owe the holder. If the old notes are held in global form through DTC, the exchange agent will pay DTC the aggregate amount of the cash we owe the holder to be

delivered in exchange for the old notes held in global form tendered and accepted in the exchange offer, and the holder will receive the applicable portion of such cash pursuant to the applicable procedures established by DTC and its participants.

Withdrawal Rights

You may withdraw any old notes that you previously tendered in the exchange offer at any time prior to the expiration of the exchange offer.

For a withdrawal to be effective, the exchange agent must receive a written notice of withdrawal at the address or, in the case of eligible institutions, at the facsimile number, listed in the section of this prospectus entitled "—Information and Exchange Agent" and on the back cover of this prospectus prior to the expiration of the exchange offer. Any notice of withdrawal must:

- specify the name of the holder that tendered the old notes to be withdrawn;
- contain a statement that you are withdrawing your election to tender your old notes in the exchange offer;
- specify the principal amount of the old notes to be withdrawn;
- be signed by you in the same manner as the original signature on the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer by which the old notes were previously tendered, including any required signature guarantees; and
- if you have tendered your old notes in accordance with the procedure for book-entry transfer described above, specify the name and number of the account at DTC to be credited with the withdrawn old notes and otherwise comply with the procedures of DTC.

In addition, you may withdraw any old notes that were previously tendered in the exchange offer after July 16, 2004, unless we have accepted your old notes for exchange pursuant to the exchange offer.

Any old notes so withdrawn will be deemed not to have been validly tendered in the exchange offer and no new notes will be issued in exchange for any withdrawn old notes unless they have been validly retendered in the exchange offer. Any old notes that have been tendered in the exchange offer, but which are not exchanged for any reason, will be credited to an account maintained with the book-entry transfer facility for the old notes as soon as practicable after withdrawal, rejection of tender or termination of the exchange offer. Properly withdrawn old notes may be retendered in the exchange offer by following the procedures described under the heading "—Procedures for Tendering Old Notes" above at any time on or prior to the expiration of the exchange offer.

Conditions for Completion of the Exchange Offer

We will not accept old notes for exchange pursuant to the exchange offer, and we may terminate, not complete or extend the exchange offer if:

- the registration statement covering the issuance of new notes pursuant to the exchange offer is not effective under the Securities Act of 1933 immediately prior to the closing of the exchange offer; or
- the Form T-1 with respect to the indenture governing the new notes is not effective under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 immediately prior to the closing of the exchange offer.

In addition, we may decide not to accept old notes for exchange, and we may decide to terminate or not complete the exchange offer, if:

- any action, proceeding or litigation seeking to enjoin, make illegal or delay completion of the exchange offer or otherwise relating in any manner to the exchange offer is instituted or threatened;
- any order, stay, judgment or decree is issued by any court, government, governmental authority or other regulatory or administrative authority and is in effect, or any statute, rule, regulation, governmental order or injunction is proposed, enacted, enforced or deemed applicable to the exchange offer, any of which would or might restrain, prohibit or delay completion of the exchange offer or in our sole judgment, impair the contemplated benefits of the exchange offer to us;
- any of the following occurs and the adverse effect of such occurrence is, in our reasonable judgment, continuing:
 - any general suspension of trading in, or limitation on prices for, securities on any national securities exchange or in the over-the-counter market in the United States;
 - any extraordinary or material adverse change in United States financial markets generally, including, without limitation, a decline of at least twenty percent in either the Dow Jones Average of Industrial stocks or the Standard & Poor's 500 Index from the date of the commencement of the exchange offer;
 - a declaration of a banking moratorium or any suspension of payments in respect of banks in the United States;
 - any limitation, whether or not mandatory, by any governmental entity on, or any other event that would reasonably be expected to materially adversely affect, the extension of credit by banks or other lending institutions;
 - a commencement of a war or other national or international calamity directly or indirectly involving the United States, which would reasonably be expected to affect materially and adversely, or to delay materially, the completion of the exchange offer; or
 - if any of the situations described above existed at the time of commencement of the exchange offer and that situation deteriorates materially after commencement of the exchange offer;
- any tender or exchange offer, other than the exchange offer described in this prospectus by us, with respect to some or all of our outstanding common stock, or any merger, acquisition or other business combination proposal involving us is proposed, announced or made by any person or entity;
- any event or events occur that have resulted or may result, in our judgment, in an actual or threatened change in our or our subsidiaries' business condition, income, operations, stock ownership or prospects or any event or condition occurs that, in our reasonable judgment, makes it inadvisable to proceed with the exchange offer;
- any person, entity or group (as that term used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Group")) acquires more than five percent (5%) of our outstanding shares of common stock, other than a person, entity or Group which had publicly disclosed such ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission prior to the date of commencement of the exchange offer;

- any such person, entity or Group which had publicly disclosed such ownership prior to such date of commencement of the exchange offer acquires additional shares of our common stock constituting more than two percent (2%) of our outstanding shares of common stock; or
- any new Group is formed that beneficially owns more than five percent (5%) of our outstanding shares of common stock and which in our judgment in any such case, and regardless of the circumstances, makes it inadvisable to proceed with the exchange offer or otherwise accept any old notes for exchange pursuant to the exchange offer.

If any of the above events occur, we may:

- terminate the exchange offer and as promptly as practicable return all old notes tendered in the exchange offer to tendering holders of such old notes;
- complete and/or extend the exchange offer and, subject to your withdrawal rights described in the section of this prospectus entitled "—Withdrawal Rights," retain all old notes tendered in the exchange offer until the extended exchange offer expires;
- amend the terms of the exchange offer; or
- waive any unsatisfied condition to the exchange offer (other than the conditions relating to the effectiveness of the registration statement and qualification of the new note indenture) and, subject to any requirement to extend the period of time during which the exchange offer is open, complete the exchange offer.

The above conditions are for our sole benefit. We may assert these conditions with respect to all or any portion of the exchange offer regardless of the circumstances giving rise to them. We may waive any condition (other than the conditions relating to the effectiveness of the registration statement and qualification of the new notes indenture) in whole or in part at any time in our sole discretion. Our failure at any time to exercise any of our rights under any of the conditions described above will not be deemed a waiver of any such rights. Each right is an ongoing right which may be asserted at any time prior to the expiration of the exchange offer. Any determination by us concerning the conditions described above will be final and binding upon all parties. In addition, we will not accept for exchange any old notes tendered in the exchange offer, and no new notes will be issued in exchange for any such old notes pursuant to the exchange offer, if at such time any stop order shall be threatened or in effect with respect to the registration statement of which this prospectus constitutes a part.

Fees and Expenses

We will not pay any fees or commissions to any broker or dealer or any other person for soliciting tenders of old notes under the exchange offer. We have retained American Stock Transfer & Trust Company to act as the information and exchange agent. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company may contact holders of old notes by mail, telephone, facsimile transmission and personal interviews and may request brokers, dealers and other nominee stockholders to forward materials relating to the exchange offer to beneficial owners. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company will receive reasonable compensation for its services, will be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and will be indemnified against liabilities in connection with its services, including liabilities under the federal securities laws.

The information and exchange agent has not been retained to make solicitations or recommendations. The fees it receives will not be based on the principal amount of old notes tendered under the exchange offer.

We will not pay any fees or commissions to any broker or dealer or any other person. Brokers, dealers, commercial banks and trust companies will, upon request, be reimbursed by us for reasonable and necessary costs and expenses incurred by them in forwarding materials to their customers.

The estimated cash expenses to be incurred in connection with the exchange offer will be paid by us with cash on hand.

Information and Exchange Agent

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company has been appointed as the information and exchange agent for the exchange offer. All executed letters of transmittal for the exchange offer should be directed to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company at the address listed below. Questions about the exchange offer, requests for assistance in connection with the exchange offer, requests for additional copies of this prospectus or of the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer and requests for notices of guaranteed delivery should be directed to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company addressed as follows:

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company

By regular, registered or certified mail, hand delivery or overnight courier:

59 Maiden Lane, Plaza Level
New York, New York 10038
Attention: Exchange Department

For information call toll-free:
(877) 248-6417

By facsimile transmission (for eligible institutions only):
(718) 234-5001
Attention: Exchange Department

Confirm by Telephone:
(877) 248-6417

If you deliver the letter of transmittal for the exchange offer to an address other than as listed above or transmission of instructions via facsimile other than as listed above, then such delivery or transmission does not constitute a valid delivery of such letter of transmittal or transmission of instructions.

Recommendation

We are not making any recommendation regarding whether you should tender your old notes in the exchange offer, and, accordingly, you must make your own determination as to whether to tender your old notes for exchange in the exchange offer.

Consequences of Exchanging or Failing to Exchange Old Notes

The liquidity and trading market of the old notes that are not tendered in the exchange offer will likely be impaired to the extent that any old notes are tendered and accepted for exchange in the exchange offer. In addition, to the extent that old notes are not exchanged for new notes, the liquidity and trading market for the new notes will also be adversely affected.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR NOTES

The following description is only a summary of the material provisions of the old notes and the new notes and the related indentures. The terms of the notes include those stated in the related indentures and those made part of the related indentures by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. For purposes of this section, references to the "company," "we," "us," "our" and "Griffon" include only Griffon Corporation and not its subsidiaries. Unless otherwise specified, references to "notes" include both the old notes and the new notes and references to the "indentures" include both the indenture for the old notes and the indenture for the new notes.

General

On July 18, 2003, we issued \$125,000,000 aggregate principal amount of old notes, and on July 29, 2003, we issued an additional \$5,000,000 aggregate principal amount of old notes. The notes are our unsecured obligations, subordinated in right of payment to senior indebtedness to the extent provided in the indenture pursuant to which the old notes were issued, which we refer to as the old indenture, and will mature on July 18, 2023, unless earlier redeemed at our option as described under "—Optional Redemption of the Notes," repurchased by us at a holder's option on certain dates as described under "—Repurchase of Notes at the Option of the Holder," or upon a change in control of Griffon as described under "—Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control" or converted at a holder's option as described under "—Conversion Rights."

The old notes and the new notes will initially be identical in all respects, other than with respect to the satisfaction of the "Market Price Condition" and the "Trading Price Condition" as described below under "Conversion Rights."

Interest on the notes accrues at the rate of 4.0% per annum and is payable semiannually on January 18 and July 18 of each year. Upon completion of the exchange offer, we will pay holders of our old notes accrued and unpaid interest on any of our old notes that are tendered and accepted for exchange in the exchange offer. The amount of accrued interest will be calculated from the last interest payment date to, but excluding, the closing date of the exchange offer. The new notes will be issued pursuant to an indenture, which we refer to as the new indenture (and, together with the old indenture, the indentures), and will accrue interest from the date of issuance. We will make each interest payment to persons who are holders of record of the notes on the immediately preceding January 1 and July 1, whether or not this day is a business day. Interest (including contingent interest and liquidated damages, if any) payable upon redemption or repurchase will be paid to the person to whom principal is payable unless the redemption or repurchase date is between the close of business on any record date for the payment of interest and the opening of business on the related interest payment date. Interest on the notes is computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months. We will pay the principal of, and interest (including contingent interest and, in the case of the old notes, liquidated damages, if any) on, the notes at the office or agency maintained by the trustee for the notes in the Borough of Manhattan in New York City. Holders may register the transfer of their notes at the same location. We reserve the right to pay interest to holders of the notes by check mailed to the holders at their registered addresses. However, a holder of notes with an aggregate principal amount in excess of \$1,000,000 may request payment by wire transfer in immediately available funds to an account in North America. Except under the limited circumstances described below, the notes will be issued only in fully registered book-entry form, without coupons, and may be represented by one or more global notes. There is no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of notes. We may, however, require holders to pay a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any transfer or exchange.

The indentures do not contain any restriction on the payment of dividends, the incurrence of indebtedness or liens or the repurchase of our securities, and do not contain any financial covenants.

Other than as described under "—Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control," the indentures contain no covenants or other provisions that afford protection to holders of notes in the event of a highly leveraged transaction.

Contingent Interest

Subject to the accrual, record date and payment provisions described above, beginning with the six-month interest period commencing July 18, 2010, contingent interest will also accrue during any six-month interest period where the average trading price (as determined below) for the five trading days ending on the third trading day immediately preceding the first day of such six-month period equals \$1,200 or more. During any period in which contingent interest accrues, it will be payable at a rate per annum equal to 0.50% of such average trading price.

Upon determination that contingent interest on the notes will accrue during a relevant six-month period, on or prior to the start of such six-month period, we will issue a press release and notify the trustee. Although the indentures do not obligate us to do so, we also expect to publish such information on our web site at <http://www.griffoncorp.com>.

The "trading price" will be determined separately for the new notes and the old notes. The trading price of the notes on any date of determination means the average of the secondary market bid quotations per \$1,000 principal amount of notes obtained by the trustee for \$5,000,000 principal amount of the notes at approximately 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on such determination date from three independent nationally recognized securities dealers we select, provided that if at least three such bids cannot reasonably be obtained by the trustee, but two such bids are obtained, then the average of the two bids shall be used, and if only one such bid can reasonably be obtained by the trustee, this one bid shall be used. If the trustee cannot reasonably obtain at least one bid for \$5,000,000 principal amount of the notes from a nationally recognized securities dealer or, in our reasonable judgment, the bid quotations are not indicative of the secondary market value of the notes, then the trading price of the notes will be determined in good faith by the trustee acting as calculation agent taking into account in such determination such factors as it, in its sole discretion after consultation with us, deems appropriate.

Conversion Rights

Subject to the restrictions described in this "Description of Our Notes," a holder may convert any outstanding notes into shares of our common stock at a conversion price per share of \$24.13. This represents an initial conversion rate of approximately 41.4422 shares per \$1,000 principal amount of the notes. The conversion price (and resulting conversion rate) is, however, subject to adjustment as described below. A holder may convert notes only in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

General

Holders may surrender notes for conversion into shares of our common stock prior to the maturity date in the following circumstances:

- in the case of the old notes, during any quarter commencing after the issuance of the old notes, if our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 120% of the conversion price per share of our common stock on that last trading day (the "market price condition" for the old notes);
- in the case of the new notes, during any quarter commencing after the issuance of the new notes, if our common stock price for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive

trading days ending on the last trading day of the calendar quarter preceding the quarter in which the conversion occurs is more than 150% of the conversion price per share of our common stock on that last trading day (the "market price condition" for the new notes);

- if we have called the particular notes for redemption and the redemption has not yet occurred;
- during the five trading day period after any five consecutive trading day period in which the average trading price of \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each day of such five-day period was less than 95% of the product of the common stock price on that day multiplied by the number of shares issuable upon conversion of \$1,000 principal amount of the notes; provided, that if on the date of conversion pursuant to the trading price condition, the price of our common stock is greater than the conversion price but less than 120% (in the case of the old notes), or 150% (in the case of the new notes), of the effective conversion price, then you will receive, in lieu of shares of our common stock based on the conversion rate, shares of our common stock with a value equal to the principal amount of your notes plus accrued but unpaid interest (including contingent interest), if any, as of the conversion date; or
- upon the occurrence of specified corporate transactions.

Based on the current conversion price, holders of old notes will be able to convert their notes into shares of our common stock if our common stock price exceeds \$28.96 for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days, while the price of our common stock must exceed \$36.20 for the same period to enable holders of new notes to convert their notes. Our common stock price on May 13, 2004 was \$22.57 per share.

In addition, in respect of any note presented for conversion, we may, at our option, in lieu of delivering shares of common stock, elect to pay the holder surrendering such note an amount of cash equal to the average of the common stock price for the five consecutive trading days immediately following (a) the date of our notice of our election to deliver cash as described below if we have not given notice of redemption, or (b) the conversion date, in the case of a conversion following our notice of redemption with respect to such note, specifying that we intend to deliver cash upon conversion, in either case multiplied by the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of such note on that date. We will inform holders through the trustee no later than two business days following the conversion date of our election to deliver shares of common stock or to pay cash in lieu of the delivery of shares, unless we have already informed holders of our election in connection with our optional redemption of the notes as described under "—Optional Redemption of the Notes." If we deliver only shares of common stock upon conversion, the shares will be delivered through the trustee no later than the fifth business day following the conversion date. If we elect to satisfy all or a portion of our obligation to deliver shares upon conversion in cash, the payment, including any delivery of common stock, will be made to holders surrendering notes no later than the tenth business day following the applicable conversion date. If an event of default, as described under "—Events of Default" (other than a default in a cash payment upon conversion of the notes), has occurred and is continuing, we may not pay cash upon conversion of any notes (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares).

The "common stock price" on any date means the closing sale price per share (or if no closing sale price is reported, the average of the bid and ask prices or, if more than one in either case, the average of the average bid and the average ask prices) on such date for our common stock as reported in composite transactions reported on the principal United States securities exchange on which the common stock is traded or, if the common stock is not listed on a United States national or regional securities exchange, as reported by the Nasdaq System.

If a holder of a note has delivered notice of its election to have such note repurchased at the option of such holder or as a result of a change in control, such note may be converted only if the

notice of election is withdrawn as described, respectively, under "—Repurchase of Notes at the Option of the Holder" or "—Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control."

Conversion Upon Notice of Redemption

A holder may surrender for conversion any note called for redemption at any time prior to the close of business on the day that is two business days prior to the redemption date, even if the notes are not otherwise convertible at such time.

Conversion Upon Satisfaction of Trading Price Condition

A holder may surrender any of its notes for conversion into shares of common stock during the five trading day period immediately after any five consecutive trading day period in which the trading price (as determined following a request by a holder of the notes in accordance with the procedures described below) of \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each day of such five-day period was less than 95% of the product of the common stock price on that day multiplied by the number of shares issuable upon conversion of \$1,000 principal amount of the notes (the "trading price condition"); provided, that if on the date of any conversion pursuant to the trading price condition, the price of our common stock is greater than the effective conversion price but less than 120%, in the case of the old notes, or 150%, in the case of the new notes, of the effective conversion price at such time, then you will receive, in lieu of shares of our common stock based on the conversion rate, shares of our common stock with a value equal to the principal amount of your notes plus accrued but unpaid interest (including contingent interest), if any, as of the conversion date ("principal value conversion"). Shares of our common stock delivered upon a principal value conversion will be valued at the greater of the effective conversion price on the conversion date and the applicable stock price as of the conversion date. We will deliver such common shares no later than the third business day following the determination of the applicable stock price. The "effective conversion price" is, as of any date of determination, a dollar amount (currently \$24.13) derived by dividing \$1,000 by the conversion rate then in effect (assuming a conversion date eight trading days prior to the date of determination).

The trustee shall have no obligation to determine the trading price of the notes unless we have requested such determination, and we shall have no obligation to make such request unless a holder provides us with reasonable evidence that the trading price would be less than 95% of the product of the closing sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate. At such time, we shall instruct the trustee to determine the trading price beginning on the next trading day and on each successive trading day until the trading price is greater than or equal to 95% of the product of the closing sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate.

Conversion Upon Specified Corporate Transactions

If we elect to:

- distribute to all holders of our common stock rights, warrants or options entitling them to subscribe for or purchase, for a period expiring within 60 days of the date of distribution, shares of our common stock at less than the then current market price; or
- distribute to all holders of shares of our common stock any assets, debt securities or certain rights to purchase our securities, which distribution has a per share value exceeding 10% of the closing price of our common stock on the day preceding the declaration date for such distribution,

we must notify the holders of notes at least 20 days prior to the ex-dividend date for such distribution. Once we have given such notice, holders may surrender their notes for conversion until the earlier of the close of business on the business day prior to the ex-dividend date or our announcement that such

distribution will not take place. This provision shall not apply if the holder of a note otherwise participates in the distribution without conversion.

In addition, if we are a party to a consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale of all or substantially all of our assets or other similar transaction, in each case pursuant to which the shares of our common stock would be converted into cash, securities or other property, a holder may surrender its notes for conversion at any time from and after the date that is 15 days prior to the anticipated date of such transaction until and including the date that is 15 days after the actual date of such transaction. If we are a party to a consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale of all or substantially all of our assets or other similar transaction, in each case pursuant to which the shares of our common stock are converted into cash, securities, or other property, then at the effective time of the transaction, a holder's right to convert its notes into shares of our common stock will be changed into a right to convert such notes into the kind and amount of cash, securities and other property that such holder would have received if such holder had converted such notes immediately prior to the transaction. If the transaction also constitutes a change in control, such holder can require us to repurchase all or a portion of its notes as described under "—Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control."

Conversion Rate Adjustments

We will adjust the conversion price if (without duplication):

- (1) we issue shares of common stock to all holders of shares of our common stock as a dividend or distribution on our common stock;
- (2) we subdivide, combine or reclassify our common stock;
- (3) we issue to all holders of our common stock rights, warrants or options entitling them to subscribe for or purchase shares of our common stock at less than the then current market price;
- (4) we distribute to all holders of shares of our common stock evidences of our indebtedness, shares of capital stock (other than shares of our common stock), securities, property, rights, warrants or options, excluding: (a) those rights, warrants or options referred to in clause (3) above; (b) any dividend or distribution paid in cash referred to in clause (5) below; and (c) any dividend or distribution referred to in clause (1) above;
- (5) we declare a cash dividend or distribution to all or substantially all of the holders of our common stock. If we declare such a cash dividend or distribution, the conversion price shall be decreased to equal the number determined by multiplying the conversion price in effect immediately prior to the record date for such dividend or distribution by the following fraction:

$$\frac{(\text{Pre-Dividend Sale Price}-\text{Dividend Adjustment Amount})}{(\text{Pre-Dividend Sale Price})}$$

provided that no adjustment to the conversion price or the ability of a holder of a note to convert will be made if we provide that holders of notes will participate in the cash dividend or distribution without conversion, *provided further* that if the numerator of the foregoing fraction is less than \$1.00 (including a negative amount) then in lieu of any adjustment under this clause (5), we shall make adequate provision so that each holder of notes shall have the right to receive upon conversion, in addition to the shares of common stock issuable upon such conversion, the amount of cash such holder would have received had such holder converted such notes on the record date for such cash dividend or distribution;

"Pre-Dividend Sale Price" means the average common stock price for the three consecutive trading days ending on the trading day immediately preceding the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution. "Dividend Adjustment Amount" means the full amount of the dividend or distribution to the extent payable in cash applicable to one share of common stock.

(6) we or one of our subsidiaries makes a payment in respect of a tender offer or exchange offer for our common stock to the extent that the cash and value of any other consideration included in the payment per share of common stock exceeds the current market price per share of common stock on the trading day next succeeding the last date on which tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to such tender or exchange offer; or

(7) someone other than Griffon or one of our subsidiaries makes a payment in respect of a tender offer or exchange offer in which, as of the closing date of the offer, our board of directors is not recommending rejection of the offer. The adjustment referred to in this clause will only be made if: (a) the tender offer or exchange offer is for an amount that increases the offeror's ownership of common stock to more than 25% of the total shares of our common stock outstanding, and (b) the cash and value of any other consideration included in the payment per share of common stock exceeds the current market price per share of common stock on the business day next succeeding the last date on which tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to the tender or exchange offer. However, the adjustment referred to in this clause will not be made if as of the closing of the offer, the offering documents disclose a plan or an intention to cause us to engage in a consolidation or merger or a sale of all or substantially all of our assets.

If the rights provided for in our stockholder rights agreement, dated as of May 9, 1996, and any subsequent similar rights plan, have separated from our common stock in accordance with the provisions of the rights agreement so that the holders of the notes would not be entitled to receive any rights in respect of shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes, the conversion price will be adjusted as provided in clause (4) above, subject to readjustment in the event of expiration, termination or redemption of the rights. In lieu of any such adjustment, we may amend our rights agreement to provide that upon conversion of the notes, the holder will receive, in addition to shares of our common stock issuable upon such conversion, the rights that would have attached to such shares of our common stock if the rights had not become separated from our common stock under our rights agreement. See "Description of Capital Stock—Stockholders Rights Plan." To the extent that we adopt any future rights plan, upon conversion of notes into our common stock, you will receive, in addition to our common stock, the rights under the future rights plan whether or not the rights have separated from our common stock at the time of conversion and no adjustment to the conversion price will be made.

Our existing stockholders rights plan expires on May 9, 2006. If we adopt another similar plan in the future, no adjustment will be made in connection with a distribution of rights thereunder.

No adjustment in the conversion price will be required unless the adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least 1% in the conversion price as last adjusted; provided, however, that any adjustments which by reason of the foregoing are not required to be made will be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment.

We will not issue fractional shares of common stock to a holder who converts a note. In lieu of issuing fractional shares, we will pay cash based upon our common stock price on the date of conversion.

Except as described in this paragraph, no holder of notes will be entitled, upon conversion of the notes, to any actual payment or adjustment on account of accrued but unpaid interest, including contingent interest and, in the case of the old notes, liquidated damages, if any, or on account of dividends on shares issued in connection with the conversion. If any holder surrenders a note for conversion between the close of business on any record date for the payment of an installment of interest and the opening of business on the related interest payment date, when the holder surrenders the note for conversion, the holder must deliver payment to us of an amount equal to the interest payable on the interest payment date (including contingent interest and, in the case of the old notes, liquidated damages, if any) on the principal amount to be converted. The foregoing sentence shall not

apply to notes called for redemption on a redemption date within the period between and including the record date and the interest payment date.

If we make a distribution of property to our stockholders that would be taxable to them as a dividend for United States federal income tax purposes and the conversion price of the notes is decreased, this decrease will generally be deemed to be the receipt of taxable income by holders of the notes and would generally result in withholding taxes for Non-U.S. Holders.

We may from time to time reduce the conversion price if our board of directors determines that this reduction would be in our best interests. Any such determination by our board of directors will be conclusive. Any such reduction in the conversion price must remain in effect for at least 20 trading days. In addition, we may from time to time reduce the conversion price if our board of directors deems it advisable to avoid or diminish any income tax to holders of our common stock resulting from any stock or rights distribution on our common stock.

Subordination

The payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest (including contingent interest and liquidated damages, if any) on the notes is subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full, in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of senior indebtedness, of all existing and future senior indebtedness. If we dissolve, wind up, liquidate or reorganize, or if we are the subject of any bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar proceedings, we will pay the holders of senior indebtedness in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of senior indebtedness before we pay the holders of the notes. If the notes are accelerated because of an event of default, we must pay the holders of senior indebtedness in full all amounts due and owing thereunder before we pay the holders of the notes. Each of the indentures requires us to promptly notify holders of senior indebtedness if payment of the notes is accelerated because of an event of default under either indenture.

We may not make any payment on the notes or purchase or otherwise acquire the notes if:

- a default in the payment of any designated senior indebtedness occurs and is continuing beyond any applicable period of grace, or
- any other default in respect of designated senior indebtedness occurs and is continuing that permits holders of the designated senior indebtedness to accelerate its maturity and the trustee receives a payment blockage notice from a person permitted to give such notice under the indenture.

We are required to resume payments on the notes:

- in case of a payment default, upon the date on which such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, and
- in case of a nonpayment default, upon the earlier of the date on which such nonpayment default is cured or waived or ceases to exist or 179 days after the date on which the payment blockage notice is received.

No new period of payment blockage based on a nonpayment default may be commenced for a default unless:

- 365 consecutive days have elapsed since the effectiveness of the immediately prior payment blockage notice, and
- all scheduled payments on the notes that have come due have been paid in full in cash.

No nonpayment default that existed or was continuing on the date of delivery of any payment blockage notice shall be the basis for a subsequent payment blockage notice, unless such nonpayment default shall have ceased to exist for a period of at least 60 consecutive days prior to the date of such subsequent payment blockage notice.

As a result of these subordination provisions, in the event of our bankruptcy, dissolution or reorganization, holders of senior indebtedness may receive more, ratably, and holders of the notes may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors. These subordination provisions will not prevent the occurrence of any event of default under the indentures. If either the trustee or any holder of notes receives any payment or distribution of our assets in contravention of these subordination provisions before all senior indebtedness is paid in full, then such payment or distribution will be held by the recipient in trust for the benefit of holders of senior indebtedness to the extent necessary to make payment in full of all senior indebtedness remaining unpaid.

We operate our business through our subsidiaries. Accordingly, we are dependent upon the cash flows of, and receipt of dividends and advances from, or repayments of advances by, our subsidiaries in order to meet our debt obligations, including our obligations under the notes. The notes are not guaranteed by our subsidiaries and, consequently, our subsidiaries are not obligated or required to pay any amounts pursuant to the notes or to make funds available in the form of dividends or advances. In the future, we may change some portion of our business that we operate through our subsidiaries.

Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities. Our subsidiaries have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the notes or to provide us with funds for our payment obligations, whether by dividends, distributions, loans or other payments. In addition, any payment of dividends, distributions, loans or advances by our subsidiaries will also be contingent upon our subsidiaries' earnings and are subject to contractual or statutory restrictions.

Our right to receive any assets of any of our subsidiaries upon their liquidation or reorganization, and therefore the right of the holders of the notes to participate in those assets, will be structurally subordinated to the claims of that subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors. In addition, even if we were a creditor of any of our subsidiaries, our rights as a creditor would be subject to the rights of the holders of any security interest in the assets of our subsidiaries and subordinate to any indebtedness of our subsidiaries senior to that held by us.

As of March 31, 2004, we had approximately \$46 million of senior indebtedness outstanding and our subsidiaries had approximately \$207 million of liabilities, to which the notes would have been structurally subordinated.

Neither we nor our subsidiaries are limited from incurring senior indebtedness or additional debt under the indenture. If we or our subsidiaries incur additional debt, our ability to pay our obligations on the notes could be affected. We expect from time to time that we and/or our subsidiaries may incur additional indebtedness and other liabilities.

We are obligated to pay reasonable compensation to the trustee. We will indemnify the trustee against any losses, liabilities or expenses incurred by it in connection with its duties. The trustee's claims for such payments will be senior to the claims of the note holders.

"Credit Agreement" means the Loan Agreement, dated as of October 25, 2001, among Griffon, Telephonics Corporation, the Lenders Party Thereto and Fleet National Bank, as Administrative Agent and The Chase Manhattan Bank, as Documentation Agent, as such agreement may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time. The Credit Agreement includes any agreement extending the maturity of, refinancing, replacing or otherwise restructuring, whether immediately after the termination of the existing Credit Agreement or later (including increasing the amount of available borrowings or adding our subsidiaries as additional borrowers or guarantors thereunder) all or any

portion of the indebtedness under any such agreement or any successor or replacement agreement whether by the same or any other agent, lender or group of lenders.

"designated senior indebtedness" means (i) any indebtedness under or in respect of the Credit Agreement and (ii) any senior indebtedness in which the instrument creating or evidencing the indebtedness, or any related agreements or documents to which we are a party, expressly provides that such indebtedness is "designated senior indebtedness" for purposes of the indentures (provided that the instrument, agreement or other document may place limitations and conditions on the right of the senior indebtedness to exercise the rights of designated senior indebtedness).

"indebtedness" means:

- (1) all of our indebtedness, obligations and other liabilities, contingent or otherwise, (a) for borrowed money, including overdrafts and any loans or advances from banks, whether or not evidenced by notes or similar instruments, or (b) evidenced by credit or loan, agreements, bonds, debentures, notes or similar instruments, whether or not the recourse of the lender is to the whole of our assets or to only a portion thereof, other than any account payable or other accrued current liability or obligation incurred in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of materials or services;
- (2) all of our reimbursement obligations and other liabilities, contingent or otherwise, with respect to letters of credit, bank guarantees or bankers' acceptances;
- (3) all of our obligations and liabilities, contingent or otherwise, in respect of leases required, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, to be accounted for as capitalized lease obligations on our balance sheet;
- (4) all of our obligations and other liabilities, contingent or otherwise, under any lease or related document, including a purchase agreement, conditional sale or other title retention agreement, in connection with the lease of real property or improvements thereon (or any personal property included as part of any such lease) which provides that we are contractually obligated to purchase or cause a third party to purchase the leased property or pay an agreed upon residual value of the leased property, including our obligations under such lease or related document to purchase or cause a third party to purchase such leased property or pay an agreed upon residual value of the leased property to the lessor (whether or not such lease transaction is characterized as an operating lease or a capitalized lease in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles);
- (5) all of our obligations, contingent or otherwise, with respect to an interest rate or other swap, cap, floor or collar agreement or hedge agreement, forward contract or other similar instrument or agreement or foreign currency hedge, exchange, purchase or similar instrument or agreement;
- (6) all of our direct or indirect guaranties or similar agreement by us in respect of, and all of our obligations or liabilities to purchase or otherwise acquire or otherwise assure a creditor against loss in respect of, indebtedness, obligations or liabilities of another person of the kinds described in clauses (1) through (5); and
- (7) any and all deferrals, renewals, extensions, refinancings and refundings of, or amendments, modifications or supplements to, any indebtedness, obligation or liability of the kinds described in clauses (1) through (6).

Indebtedness shall not include obligations of any person (i) arising from the honoring by a bank or other financial institution of a check, draft or similar instrument inadvertently drawn against insufficient funds in the ordinary course of business, provided that such obligations are extinguished within two business days of their incurrence, (ii) resulting from the endorsement of negotiable instruments for

collection in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past business practices or (iii) stand-by letters of credit to the extent collateralized by cash or cash equivalents.

"senior indebtedness" means the principal of, premium, if any, interest, including any interest accruing after the commencement of any bankruptcy or similar proceeding, whether or not a claim for post-petition interest is allowed as a claim in the proceeding, and rent payable on or in connection with, and all fees, costs, expenses and other amounts accrued or due on or in connection with, our indebtedness whether secured or unsecured, absolute or contingent, due or to become due, outstanding on the date of the indenture or thereafter created, incurred, assumed, guaranteed or in effect guaranteed by us, including all deferrals, renewals, extensions or refundings of, or amendments, modifications or supplements to, the foregoing. Senior indebtedness does not include (i) any indebtedness or obligation whose terms expressly provide that such indebtedness or obligation shall not be senior in right of payment to the notes or expressly provides that such indebtedness is equal or *pari passu* in right of payment with or junior in right of payment to the notes; (ii) any indebtedness we owe to any of our subsidiaries and (iii) the notes.

Optional Redemption of the Notes

Beginning on July 26, 2010, we may redeem the notes, in whole at any time, or in part from time to time, for cash at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes plus accrued but unpaid interest (including contingent interest and, in the case of the old notes, liquidated damages, if any) up to but not including the date of redemption. We will give not less than 30 days' nor more than 60 days' notice of redemption by mail to holders of the notes. If we choose to redeem less than all of the notes at any time, the trustee will select or cause to be selected the notes to be redeemed by any method that it deems fair and appropriate, provided that old notes and new notes will be redeemed on a pro-rata basis, based on their then-outstanding principal amounts. In the event of a partial redemption, the trustee may provide for selection for redemption of portions of the principal amount of any note of a denomination larger than \$1,000.

Repurchase of Notes at the Option of the Holder

A holder has the right to require us to repurchase all or a portion of the notes on July 18, 2010, 2013 and 2018. We will repurchase the notes for an amount of cash equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes on the date of purchase, plus accrued but unpaid interest (including contingent interest and, in the case of the old notes, liquidated damages, if any) up to but not including the date of repurchase.

We will be required to give notice on a date not less than 30 business days prior to each purchase date to all holders at their addresses shown in the register of the registrar, and to beneficial owners as required by applicable law, stating, among other things, the procedures that holders must follow to require us to purchase their notes.

The purchase notice given by each holder electing to require us to purchase notes shall state:

- the certificate numbers of the holder's notes to be delivered for purchase; and
- the portion of the principal amount notes to be purchased, which must be \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000.

For a discussion of the tax treatment of a holder exercising the right to require us to purchase notes, see "Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations—U.S. Holders—Sale, Exchange, Conversion, Repurchase or Redemption."

Any purchase notice may be withdrawn by the holder by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to the paying agent prior to the close of business on the purchase date. The notice of withdrawal shall state:

- the principal amount being withdrawn;
- the certificate numbers of the notes being withdrawn; and
- the principal amount of the notes that remain subject to the purchase notice, if any.

Payment of the purchase price for a note for which a purchase notice has been delivered and not validly withdrawn is conditioned upon delivery of the note, together with necessary endorsements, to the paying agent at any time after delivery of the purchase notice. Payment of the purchase price for the notes will be made promptly following the later of the purchase date or the time of delivery of the notes.

If the paying agent holds money sufficient to pay the purchase price of the note on the business day following the purchase date in accordance with the terms of the indenture, then, immediately after the purchase date, the note will cease to be outstanding, whether or not the note is delivered to the paying agent. Thereafter, all other rights of the holder shall terminate, other than the right to receive the purchase price upon delivery of the note.

Our ability to purchase notes may be limited by the terms of our then existing indebtedness or financing agreements and by the subordination provisions of the notes.

No notes may be purchased at the option of holders if there has occurred and is continuing an event of default with respect to the applicable notes, other than a default in the payment of the purchase price with respect to such notes.

Mandatory Redemption

Except as described in this prospectus under "—Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control" and "—Repurchase of Notes at the Option of the Holder," we are not required to make mandatory redemption of, or sinking fund payments with respect to, the notes.

Right to Require Purchase of Notes upon a Change in Control

If a change in control (as defined below) occurs, each holder of notes may require that we repurchase the holder's notes on the date fixed by us that is not less than 30 days nor more than 45 days after we give notice of the change in control. We will repurchase the notes for an amount of cash equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes, plus accrued but unpaid interest (including contingent interest and, in the case of the old notes, liquidated damages, if any) to the date of repurchase.

"Change in control" means the occurrence of one or more of the following events:

- any sale, lease, exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of our assets, to any person or group of related persons, as defined in Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act (a "Group");
- the approval by the holders of our capital stock of any plan or proposal for our liquidation or dissolution, whether or not otherwise in compliance with the provisions of either indenture;
- any person or Group becomes the owner, directly or indirectly, beneficially or of record, of shares of our voting stock representing more than 30% of the aggregate ordinary voting power of all shares represented by our issued and outstanding voting stock; or

- the first day on which a majority of the members of our board of directors are not continuing directors.

The definition of "change in control" includes a phrase relating to the sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of "all or substantially all" of our assets. Although there is a developing body of case law interpreting the phrase "substantially all," there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of notes to require us to repurchase such notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of our assets to another person or Group may be uncertain.

"Continuing directors" means, as of any date of determination, any member of our board of directors who:

- was a member of such board of directors on the date of the original issuance of the notes, or
- was nominated for election or elected to such board of directors with the approval of a majority of the continuing directors who were members of such board at the time of such nomination or election.

On or prior to the date of repurchase, we will deposit with a paying agent an amount of money sufficient to pay the aggregate repurchase price of the notes that is to be paid on the date of repurchase.

On or before the 30th day after the change in control, we must mail to the trustee and all holders of the notes a notice of the occurrence of the change in control offer, stating the procedures that a holder of notes must follow in order to exercise the repurchase right.

To exercise the repurchase right, holders of notes must deliver, on or before the repurchase date specified in our notice of a change in control, the notes to be repurchased, duly endorsed for transfer, together with a written repurchase notice and the form entitled "Option to Elect Repurchase Upon a Change in Control" on the reverse side of the note duly completed, to the paying agent. The repurchase notice given by each holder electing to require us to repurchase notes shall state:

- the certificate numbers of the holder's notes to be delivered for repurchase; and
- the portion of the principal amount of notes to be repurchased, which must be \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000.

For a discussion of the tax treatment of a holder exercising the right to require us to purchase notes, see "Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations—U.S. Holders—Sale, Exchange, Conversion, Repurchase or Redemption."

Any repurchase notice may be withdrawn by the holder by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to the paying agent prior to the close of business on the repurchase date. The notice of withdrawal shall state:

- the principal amount being withdrawn; and
- the certificate numbers of the notes being withdrawn.

In connection with any change in control purchase offer, we expect to comply with any tender offer rules under the Exchange Act that may then be applicable.

We will within 30 days following any change in control:

- obtain the consents under all senior indebtedness required to permit the repurchase of the notes pursuant to a change in control offer; or
- repay in full all indebtedness and terminate all commitments under all senior indebtedness, the terms of which would prohibit the purchase of the notes under a change in control offer.

If we are obligated to make a change in control offer, there can be no assurance that we will be able to obtain all required consents under senior indebtedness or have available funds sufficient to repay senior indebtedness and to pay the change in control purchase price for all the notes tendered under a change in control offer. We would need to seek third party financing to the extent we do not have available funds to meet our purchase obligations. However, there can be no assurance that we would be able to obtain any such financing.

The effect of these provisions granting the holders the right to require us to repurchase the notes upon the occurrence of a change in control may make it more difficult for any person or group to acquire control of us or to effect a business combination with us. Our ability to pay cash to holders of notes following the occurrence of a change in control may be limited by our then existing financial resources. We cannot assure you that sufficient funds will be available when necessary to make any required repurchases. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to an Investment in the Notes and Our Common Stock."

Our obligation to make a change in control offer will be satisfied if a third party makes the change in control offer in the manner and at the times and otherwise in compliance in all material respects with the requirements applicable to a change in control offer made by us and purchases all notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under the change in control offer.

The term "beneficial owner" will be determined in accordance with Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 promulgated by the SEC under the Exchange Act or any successor provision, except that a person shall be deemed to have "beneficial ownership" of all shares of our common stock that the person has the right to acquire, whether exercisable immediately or only after the passage of time.

No notes may be purchased at the option of holders if there has occurred and is continuing an event of default with respect to the applicable notes, other than a default in the payment of the purchase price with respect to such notes.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We may, without the consent of the holders of any of the notes, consolidate with, or merge into any other person or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to, any other person, if:

- we are the resulting or surviving corporation or the successor, transferee or lessee, if other than us, is a corporation or limited liability company organized under the laws of any U.S. jurisdiction and expressly assumes our obligations under the indenture and the notes by means of a supplemental indenture entered into with the trustee; and
- after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default and no event that, with notice or lapse of time, or both, would constitute an event of default, shall have occurred and be continuing.

Under any consolidation, merger or any conveyance, transfer or lease of our properties and assets as described in the preceding paragraph, the successor company will be our successor and shall succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, Griffon under the indentures. If the predecessor is still in existence after the transaction, it will be released from its obligations and covenants under the indentures and the notes, except in the case of a lease of all or substantially all of our properties and assets.

Modification and Waiver

We and the trustee may enter into one or more supplemental indentures to either the old indenture or the new indenture that add, change or eliminate provisions of either indenture or modify the rights of the holders of the notes with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the old notes or new notes, as applicable, then outstanding. However, without the consent of

each holder of an outstanding old note or new note, as applicable, no supplemental old indenture or new indenture may, among other things:

- change the stated maturity of the principal of, or payment date of any installment of interest (including contingent interest, if any) on, any old note or new note, as applicable;
- reduce the principal amount or redemption price of, or the rate of interest (including contingent interest, if any) on, any old note or new note, as applicable;
- change the currency in which the principal of any old note or new note, as applicable, or interest is payable or adversely affect the price or ratio at which common stock may be substituted for currency in connection with any payments made;
- impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to any old note or new note, as applicable, when due;
- adversely affect the right provided in the old indenture or new indenture, as applicable, to convert any old note or new note, as applicable;
- modify the provisions of the old indenture or new indenture, as applicable, relating to our requirement to repurchase the old notes or new notes, as applicable:
 - upon a change in control after the occurrence thereof; or
 - on July 18, 2010, 2013 and 2018;
- reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding old notes or new notes, as applicable, necessary to modify or amend the old indenture or new indenture, as applicable, or to consent to any waiver provided for in the old indenture or new indenture, as applicable; or
- waive a default in the payment of any amount or shares of common stock due in connection with any old note or new note, as applicable.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding old notes or new notes, as applicable, may, on behalf of the holders of all old notes or new notes, as applicable:

- waive compliance by us with restrictive provisions of the applicable indenture other than as provided in the preceding paragraph; and
- waive any past default under the applicable indenture and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or redemption or purchase price of, or any interest (including contingent interest, if any) on, any old note or new note, as applicable, or in respect of a provision that under the applicable indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding old note or new note, as applicable, affected.

Without the consent of any holders of the old note or new note, as applicable, we and the trustee may enter into one or more supplemental indentures for any of the following purposes:

- to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency in the applicable indenture;
- to evidence a successor to us and the assumption by the successor of our obligations under the applicable indenture and the respective notes;
- to make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder of the old note or new note, as applicable;
- to comply with any requirement in connection with the qualification of the applicable indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or
- to complete or make provision for certain other matters contemplated by the applicable indenture.

Modification of either indenture would not result in the modification of the other indenture, unless the conditions to modification of the other indenture have been satisfied.

Events of Default

(1) Each of the following are events of default under each of the indentures: if we fail to pay interest on any notes or liquidated damages on any old notes when it becomes due and payable and the default continues for a period of 30 days, whether or not such failure shall be due to the subordination provisions of the applicable indenture or agreements with respect to any other indebtedness or any other reason;

(2) if we fail to pay the principal on any old notes or new notes, as applicable, when it becomes due and payable, at maturity, upon acceleration, upon redemption or otherwise (including the failure to make a change in control offer or make a payment to purchase old notes or new notes, as applicable, tendered pursuant to a change in control offer or the failure to repurchase old notes or new notes, as applicable, at your option on July 18, 2010, 2013 or 2018), whether or not such failure shall be due to the subordination provisions of the applicable indenture or agreements with respect to any other indebtedness or any other reason;

(3) if we fail to provide notice of the occurrence of a change in control event on a timely basis;

(4) if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant or agreement contained in the applicable indenture that continues for a period of 30 days after we receive written notice specifying the default (and demanding that such default be remedied) from the trustee or the holders of at least 25% of the outstanding principal amount of the old notes or new notes, as applicable (except in the case of our default with respect to the "Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets" covenant, which will constitute an event of default with such notice requirement but without such passage of time requirement);

(5) if we fail to pay at final maturity (giving effect to any applicable grace periods and any extensions thereof) the principal amount of any of our or our subsidiaries' recourse indebtedness, or the acceleration of the final stated maturity of any such recourse indebtedness if the aggregate principal amount of such indebtedness, together with the principal amount of any other such recourse indebtedness in default for failure to pay principal at final maturity or that has been accelerated, aggregates \$25.0 million or more at any time;

(6) one or more judgments in an aggregate amount in excess of \$25.0 million shall have been rendered against us or any of our subsidiaries and remain undischarged, unpaid or unstayed for a period of 60 days after such judgment or judgments become final and nonappealable; and

(7) certain events of bankruptcy affecting us or any of our significant subsidiaries.

The events of default described in clauses (5), (6) and (7) above with respect to a subsidiary shall not apply if that person was not a subsidiary at the time such event or condition occurred unless, in the case of clause (5) or (6) above, we or another of our subsidiaries assumes or otherwise becomes liable for the liability referred to therein or the liabilities generally of such person.

If an event of default (other than an event of default specified in clause (7) above) shall occur and be continuing, the trustee may, and at the request of the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of outstanding old notes or new notes, as applicable, shall, declare the principal of and accrued interest on all the old notes or new notes, as applicable, to be due and payable by written notice to us and, if it is given at the request of the holders, the trustee must specify the respective event of default and that it is a "notice of acceleration" (the "Acceleration Notice"). Upon delivery of an Acceleration Notice, the

principal of and accrued interest (including contingent interest and liquidated damages, if any) on all the old notes or new notes, as applicable:

- shall become immediately due and payable; or
- if there are any amounts outstanding under the Credit Agreement, shall become immediately due and payable upon the first to occur of an acceleration under the Credit Agreement or five business days after receipt by us and the representative under the Credit Agreement of such Acceleration Notice but only if such event of default is then continuing.

If an event of default specified in clause (7) above occurs and is continuing with respect to us, then all unpaid principal of, and premium, if any, and accrued but unpaid interest on all of the outstanding old notes or new notes, as applicable, shall become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holder.

At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the old notes or new notes, as applicable, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the old notes or new notes, as applicable, may rescind and cancel such declaration and its consequences:

- if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree;
- if all existing events of default have been cured or waived except nonpayment of principal or interest that has become due solely because of such acceleration;
- if interest on overdue installments of interest (to the extent the payment of such interest is lawful) and on overdue principal, which has become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration, has been paid;
- if we have paid the trustee its reasonable compensation and reimbursed the trustee for its expenses, disbursements and advances; and
- in the event of the cure or waiver of an event of default of the type described in clause (4) of the description above of events of default, the trustee has received an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel that such event of default has been cured or waived.

No such rescission shall affect any subsequent default or impair any rights arising from a subsequent default.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the old notes or new notes, as applicable, may waive any existing default or event of default under the respective indentures, and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of or interest on any old notes or new notes, as applicable.

The holders of the notes may not enforce the applicable indenture or the notes except as provided in the applicable indenture and under the Trust Indenture Act. Subject to the provisions of the indentures relating to the duties of the trustee, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indentures at the request, order or direction of any of the holders, unless such holders have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Subject to all provisions of the indentures and applicable law, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding old notes or new notes, as applicable, have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

We are required to provide an officers' certificate to the trustee promptly upon our obtaining knowledge of any default or event of default that has occurred and, if applicable, describe such default or event of default and the status thereof. In addition, we must provide an annual certification as to the existence of defaults and events of default.

Book-Entry System

The notes are issued in the form of global securities held in book-entry form. Each of the old notes and the new notes will be evidenced by separate global notes. DTC or its nominee is the sole registered holder of the notes for all purposes under the indentures. Owners of beneficial interests in the notes represented by the global securities hold their interests pursuant to the procedures and practices of DTC. As a result, beneficial interests in any such securities are shown on, and transfers are effected only through, records maintained by DTC and its direct and indirect participants. Any such interests may not be exchanged for certificated securities, except in limited circumstances. Owners of beneficial interests must exercise any rights in respect of their interests, including any right to convert or require repurchase of their interests in the notes, in accordance with the procedures and practices of DTC. Beneficial owners are not holders and are not entitled to any rights under the global securities or the indenture. We and the trustee, and any of our respective agents, may treat DTC as the sole holder and registered owner of the global securities.

Exchange of Global Securities

The notes, represented by one or more global securities, will be exchangeable for certificated securities in fully registered form with the same terms only if:

- DTC is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and we do not appoint a successor depository within 90 days;
- we decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfer through DTC or any successor depository, or
- a default under the indentures occurs and is continuing.

DTC has advised us as follows: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" for registered participants, and it facilitates the settlement of transactions among its participants in those securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, including the agent, banks, trust companies, clearing corporation and other organizations, some of whom and/or their representatives own DTC. Access to DTC's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

Concerning the Trustee

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company will act as the trustee under both the old and the new indentures. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company also acts as the transfer agent for our common stock and as the rights agent in connection with our stockholders rights plan. See "Description of Capital Stock."

Governing Law

The indentures and the notes are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York without regard to principles of conflict of laws.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Our authorized capital stock consists of 85,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.25 per share, and 3,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.25 per share. The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. At March 31, 2004, approximately 29,521,130 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock were outstanding. In addition to the summary of our capital stock that follows, we encourage you to review our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, which we have filed with the SEC.

Common Stock

Holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters on which stockholders are generally entitled to vote. The vote of the holders of a majority of the stock represented at a meeting at which a quorum is present is generally required to take stockholder action, unless a greater vote is required by law. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast at any election and there is no cumulative voting of shares.

Holders of shares of our common stock have no preemptive rights. Subject to the applicable laws and the rights of the holders of preferred stock, holders of shares of common stock are entitled to such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors. The common stock is not entitled to any sinking fund, redemption or conversion provisions. Upon our dissolution, liquidation or winding up, the holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in our net assets remaining after the payment of all creditors and liquidation preferences of preferred stock. The outstanding shares of common stock are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock

We are authorized to issue 3,000,000 shares of preferred stock, of which 37,000 shares consist of Series A preferred stock, and 1,950,000 shares consist of Second Preferred Stock. The 1,950,000 shares of such Second Preferred Stock have been designated Second Preferred Stock—Series I. Of the authorized preferred stock, 575,000 shares have been designated as the \$12.50 Cumulative Redeemable Exchangeable Preferred Stock, and 60,000 shares have been designated as the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. Presently, we have no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

Subject to the provisions of our charter, our board of directors, without further stockholder authorization, is authorized to establish, from time to time, one or more series of preferred stock and to fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each of these series and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including dividend rights and preferences over dividends on our common stock, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights, the terms of any sinking fund therefor and rights upon liquidation. The ability of the board of directors to issue preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with financing, acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could have the effect of discouraging, deferring or preventing a change in control or an unsolicited acquisition proposal, since the issuance of preferred stock could be used to dilute the share ownership of a person or entity seeking to obtain control of us. In addition, because the board of directors has the power to establish the preferences, powers and rights of the shares of any of these series of preferred stock, it may afford the holders of any preferred stock preferences, powers and rights (including voting rights) senior to the rights of the holders of common stock, which could adversely affect the rights of holders of common stock.

Stockholders Rights Plan

On May 9, 1996, our board of directors declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right for each outstanding share of our common stock. The dividend was paid on June 3, 1996, the record date, to the stockholders of record on that date. Each right entitles the registered holder to purchase

from us one one-thousandth of a share of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.25 per share, at a purchase price of \$34.00 per eleven-ten-thousandth of a preferred share, subject to adjustment. The description and terms of the rights are set forth in a rights agreement between us and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as rights agent.

Until the earlier to occur of (i) 10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons, referred to as an acquiring person, have acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock or (ii) 10 business days (or such later date as may be determined by action of the board of directors prior to such time as any person or group of affiliated persons becomes an acquiring person) following the commencement of, or announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer, the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock (the earlier of such dates being called the distribution date), the rights will be evidenced, with respect to any of the common stock certificates outstanding as of the record date, by such common stock certificate with a copy of the summary of rights attached thereto.

Until the distribution date (or earlier redemption or expiration of the rights), the rights will be transferred with and only with the shares of common stock. The rights are not exercisable until the distribution date. The rights will expire on May 9, 2006, unless otherwise extended or the rights are earlier redeemed or exchanged by us, in each case, as described below.

The purchase price payable, and the number of preferred shares or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (i) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the preferred shares, (ii) upon the grant to holders of the preferred shares of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase preferred shares at a price, or securities convertible into preferred shares with a conversion price, less than the then current market price of the preferred shares or (iii) upon the distribution to holders of the preferred shares of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular periodic cash dividends paid out of earnings or retained earnings or dividends payable in preferred shares) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above).

The number of outstanding rights and the number of one one-thousandths of a preferred share issuable upon exercise of each right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split of the common stock or a stock dividend on the common stock payable in shares of common stock or subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the common stock occurring, in any such case, prior to the distribution date.

Preferred shares purchasable upon exercise of the rights will not be redeemable. Each preferred share will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of the greater of \$1 per share or 11,000 times the aggregate per share amount of all dividends, other than a stock dividend, payable to holders of shares of common stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the preferred shares will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidation payment of \$11,000 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, but will be entitled to an aggregate payment of 11,000 times the payment made per share of common stock. Each preferred share will have 11,000 votes, voting together with the common stock. Finally, in the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which the common stock are exchanged, each preferred share will be entitled to receive 11,000 times the amount received per share of common stock. These rights are protected by customary antidilution provisions.

Because of the nature of the preferred shares' dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the value of the one one-thousandth interest in a preferred share purchasable upon exercise of each right should approximate the value of one share of common stock.

In the event that we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or 50% or more of its consolidated assets or earning power are sold after a person or group has become an acquiring person, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the then current exercise price of the right, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company which at the time of such transaction will have a market value of two times the exercise price of the right. In the event that any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an acquiring person, proper provision shall be made so that each holder of a right, other than rights beneficially owned by the acquiring person (which will thereafter be void), will thereafter have the right to receive upon exercise that number of shares of common stock having a market value of two times the exercise price of the right.

At any time after any person or group becomes an acquiring person and prior to the acquisition by such person or group of 50% or more of the outstanding shares of our common stock, our board of directors may exchange the rights (other than rights owned by such person or group which will have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock, or one one-thousandth of a preferred share (or of a share of a class or series of our preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per right (subject to adjustment).

With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the purchase price will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% in such purchase price. No fractional preferred shares will be issued (other than fractions which are integral multiples of one one-thousandth of a preferred share, which may, at our election, be evidenced by depository receipts) and in lieu thereof, an adjustment in cash will be made based on the market price of the preferred shares on the last trading day prior to the date of exercise.

At any time prior to the acquisition by a person or group of affiliated or associated persons of beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of our common stock, our board of directors may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a redemption price of \$.01 per right. The redemption of the rights may be made effective at such time on such basis with such conditions as the board of directors in its sole discretion may establish. Immediately upon any redemption of the rights, the right to exercise the rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of rights will be to receive the Redemption Price.

The terms of the rights may be amended by our board of directors without the consent of the holders of the rights, except that from and after such time as any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an acquiring person no such amendment may adversely affect the interests of the holders of the rights.

Until a right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a stockholder of ours, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

The rights have certain anti-takeover effects. The rights will cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire us on terms not approved by our board of directors, except pursuant to an offer conditioned on a substantial number of rights being acquired. The rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the board of directors since the rights may be redeemed by us at the Redemption Price prior to the time that a person or group has acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the shares of common stock.

Anti-Takeover Considerations

Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws contain a number of provisions that may have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from acquiring us.

Classified Board of Directors

Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws divide our board of directors into three classes, as nearly equal in size as possible, with staggered three year terms, and provide that:

- directors may be removed only for cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote; and
- any vacancy on our board of directors may only be filled by vote of a majority of the directors then in office.

Stockholder Action, Special Meeting of Stockholders

Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws eliminate the ability of our stockholders to act by written consent. Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws further provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only at the written request of stockholders owning at least 66²/₃% of the entire voting power of our capital stock.

Advance Notice Requirements for Stockholder Proposals and Directors Nominations

Our by-laws provide that stockholders seeking to bring business before an annual meeting of stockholders, or to nominate candidates for election as directors at an annual meeting of stockholders, must provide timely notice in writing. To be timely, a stockholder's notice must be delivered to or mailed and received at our principal executive offices not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting. However, in the event that the annual meeting is called for a date that is not within 25 days before or after such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder in order to be timely must be received not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the date on which notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed to stockholders or made public, whichever first occurs. Our by-laws also specify requirements as to the form and content of a stockholder's notice. These provisions may preclude stockholders from bringing matters before an annual meeting of stockholders or from making nominations for directors at an annual meeting of stockholders.

Business Combinations and Limitations in our Certificate of Incorporation

Our certificate of incorporation provides that in the event that it is proposed that we enter into a merger or consolidation with any other corporation and such other corporation or its affiliates singly or in the aggregate own or control, directly or indirectly, 5% or more of the outstanding voting power of our capital stock, or that we sell substantially all of our assets or business to such other corporation, the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than 66²/₃% of the total voting power of all outstanding shares of our capital stock shall be required for the approval of any such proposal. However, such requirements shall not apply to any such merger, consolidation or sale of assets or business that was approved by resolutions of our board of directors prior to the acquisition of the ownership or control of 5% of our outstanding shares of capital stock by such other corporation or its affiliates, nor shall it apply to any such merger, consolidation or sale of assets or business between us and another corporation, 50% or more of the total voting power of which is owned by us. An "affiliate" is any person (including a corporation, partnership, trust, estate or individual) who directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person specified; "control" means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.

Amendments; Supermajority Vote Requirements

Our certificate of incorporation requires the affirmative vote of 66²/₃% of our voting stock to amend certain provisions of our certificate of incorporation, including those provisions relating to the business combinations limitations, classified board of directors, action by written consent and the ability of stockholders to call special meetings.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Law

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law prohibits certain "business combination" transactions between a Delaware corporation and any "interested stockholder" owning 15% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock for a period of three years after the date on which the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

- the board of directors approves, prior to the date, either the proposed business combination or the proposed acquisition of stock that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- upon consummation of the transaction in which the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of those shares of the voting stock of the corporation that are not held by the directors, officers or certain employee stock plans; or
- on or subsequent to the date on which the stockholder became an interested stockholder, the business combination with the interested stockholder is approved by the board of directors and also approved at a stockholder's meeting by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the corporation's voting stock other than shares held by the interested stockholder.

Under Delaware law, a "business combination" includes a merger, asset sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder.

Although a corporation may elect not to be governed by Section 203, we have made no such election.

BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM—DTC

The new notes will be, and the old notes are, evidenced by a global security initially deposited with DTC, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as DTC's nominee. Except as set forth below, the global security may be transferred only to another nominee of DTC or to a successor of DTC or its nominee.

Holders of notes may hold their interests in the global security directly through DTC or indirectly through organizations which are participants in DTC (called "participants"). Transfers between participants will be effected in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in clearinghouse funds. The laws of some states require that some persons take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. As a result, holders may be unable to transfer beneficial interests in the global security to those persons. Holders that are not participants may beneficially own interests in the global security held by DTC only through participants or indirect participants, including banks, brokers, dealers, trust companies and other parties that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant. So long as Cede & Co., as the nominee of DTC, is the registered owner of the global security, Cede & Co. will be considered the sole holder of the global security for all purposes. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in the global security will not:

- be entitled to have certificates registered in their names;
- be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificates in definitive form; and
- be considered registered holders.

We will make payments of interest on and principal of and the redemption or repurchase price of the global security to Cede & Co., the nominee for DTC, as the registered holder of the global security. We will make these payments by wire transfer of immediately available funds. Neither we, the notes trustee nor any paying agent will have any responsibility or liability for:

- records or payments on beneficial ownership interests in the global security; or
- maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We have been informed that DTC's practice is to credit participants' accounts on the payment date. These payments will be made in amounts proportionate to participants' beneficial interests in the new notes. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the new notes represented by the global security held through participants will be the responsibility of those participants.

We will send any redemption notices to Cede & Co. We understand that if less than all of the new notes are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the holdings of each participant to be redeemed. We also understand that neither DTC nor Cede & Co. will consent or vote with respect to the new notes. We have been advised that under its usual procedures, DTC will mail an "omnibus proxy" to us as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those participants to whose accounts the new notes are credited on the record date identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy.

A person having a beneficial interest in old notes represented by the global security may be unable to pledge that interest to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC system, or to take other actions in respect of that interest, because that interest is not represented by a physical certificate.

DTC has advised us that it is:

- a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;
- a member of the Federal Reserve System;
- a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and

- a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between participants through electronic book-entry changes to accounts of its participants. Some of the participants, together with other entities, own DTC. Indirect access to the DTC system is available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through, or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

DTC is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform the above procedures. DTC may discontinue these at any time. If DTC is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will cause existing notes to be issued in definitive form in exchange for the global security.

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain United States federal income tax consequences of the exchange of old notes for new notes pursuant to the exchange offer and the ownership, conversion, and other disposition of the notes by a beneficial owner of the notes and of the common stock received upon a conversion of the notes. This summary is based upon existing United States federal income tax law, which is subject to change or differing interpretations, possibly with retroactive effect. This summary does not discuss all aspects of United States federal income taxation which may be important to particular investors in light of their individual circumstances, such as notes held by investors subject to special tax rules (e.g., financial institutions, insurance companies, broker-dealers, and tax-exempt organizations) or to persons that will hold the notes as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion, constructive sale, or other integrated transaction for United States federal income tax purposes or U.S. Holders (as defined below) that have a functional currency other than the United States dollar, all of whom may be subject to tax rules that differ significantly from those summarized below. In addition, this summary does not discuss any foreign, state, or local tax considerations. This summary assumes that investors will hold their notes as "capital assets" under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Each prospective investor is urged to consult its tax advisor regarding the United States federal, state, local, and foreign income and other tax consequences of the exchange offer, ownership, conversion, and other disposition of the notes and common stock received upon a conversion of the notes.

For purposes of this summary, a "U.S. Holder" is a beneficial owner of a note that is, for United States federal income tax purposes, (i) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation, partnership, or other entity created in, or organized under the law of, the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof, (iii) an estate the income of which is includible in gross income for United States federal income tax purposes regardless of its source, or (iv) a trust (A) the administration of which is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and which has one or more United States persons who have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (B) that was in existence on August 20, 1996, was treated as a United States person on the previous day, and elected to continue to be so treated. A beneficial owner of a note that is not a U.S. Holder is referred to herein as a "Non-U.S Holder." If a partnership (including any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of notes or shares of common stock, the treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A holder of notes or shares of common stock that is a partnership and partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the United States federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of notes or shares of common stock, as the case may be.

Exchange Offer

We believe the exchange of an old note for a new note and the receipt of cash consideration pursuant to the exchange offer will not constitute a "significant modification" of the old note for United States federal income tax purposes and, accordingly, the new note received will be treated as a continuation of the old note in the hands of such holder. As a result, aside from the receipt of cash consideration, we believe that there will be no United States federal income tax consequences to a holder who exchanges an old note for a new note pursuant to the exchange offer, and any such holder will have the same adjusted tax basis and holding period in the new note as it had in the old note immediately before the exchange. We intend to treat the payments of cash consideration as ordinary income to holders participating in the exchange offer and to report such payments to holders and the IRS for information purposes in accordance with such treatment. Therefore, the receipt of cash consideration by Non-U.S. Holders participating in the exchange offer will be subject to United States federal withholding tax. A holder who does not exchange its old notes for new notes pursuant to the

exchange offer will not recognize any gain or loss, for United States federal income tax purposes, upon consummation of the exchange offer.

Classification of the Notes

Pursuant to the terms of the indenture, each holder of notes will agree to treat the notes, for United States federal income tax purposes, as debt instruments that are subject to the Treasury regulations that govern contingent payment debt instruments (the "CPDI Regulations") and to be bound by our application of the CPDI Regulations to the notes, including our determination of the rate at which interest will be deemed to accrue on the notes and the related "projected payment schedule." The remainder of this discussion assumes that the notes will be treated in accordance with that agreement and our determinations.

No authority directly addresses the treatment of all aspects of the notes for United States federal income tax purposes. The Internal Revenue Service (the "Service") has issued Revenue Ruling 2002-31 and Notice 2002-36, in which the Service addressed the United States federal income tax classification and treatment of a debt instrument similar, although not identical, to the notes, and the Service concluded that the debt instrument addressed in that published guidance was subject to the CPDI Regulations. In addition, the Service clarified various aspects of the applicability of certain other provisions of the Code to the debt instrument addressed in that published guidance. The applicability of Revenue Ruling 2002-31 and Notice 2002-36 to any particular debt instrument, however, such as the notes, is uncertain. In addition, no rulings are expected to be sought from the Service with respect to any of the United States federal income tax consequences discussed below, and no assurance can be given that the Service will not take contrary positions. As a result, no assurance can be given that the Service will agree with the tax characterizations and the tax consequences described below. A different treatment of the notes for United States federal income tax purposes could significantly alter the amount, timing, character, and treatment of income, gain or loss recognized in respect of the notes from that which is described below and could require a U.S. Holder to accrue interest income at rate different from the "comparable yield" rate described below.

U.S. Holders

Interest Income

Under the CPDI Regulations, a U.S. Holder will generally be required to accrue interest income on the notes on a constant yield to maturity basis based on the adjusted issue price (as defined below) of the notes and the comparable yield (as defined below), regardless of whether the U.S. Holder uses the cash or accrual method of tax accounting. Accordingly, a U.S. Holder will be required to include interest in taxable income in each year significantly in excess of the amount of interest payments, including contingent interest payments, actually received by it in that year.

The "issue price" of a note is the first price at which a substantial amount of the notes is sold to investors, excluding bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers. The "adjusted issue price" of a note is its issue price increased by any interest income previously accrued, determined without regard to any adjustments to interest accruals described below and decreased by the amount of any projected payments scheduled to be made with respect to the notes.

Under the CPDI Regulations, we are required to establish the "comparable yield" for the notes. The comparable yield for the notes is the annual yield we would incur, as of the initial issue date, on a fixed rate nonconvertible debt instrument with no contingent payments, but with terms and conditions otherwise comparable to those of the notes. Accordingly, we have determined the comparable yield to be 8.5% compounded semi-annually.

We are required to provide to U.S. Holders, solely for United States federal income tax purposes, a schedule of the projected amounts of payments on the notes. This schedule must produce the comparable yield. Our determination of the projected payment schedule for the notes includes estimates for payments of contingent interest and an estimate for a payment at maturity that takes into account the conversion feature. U.S. Holders may obtain the projected payment schedule by submitting a written request for it to us at the address set forth under "Where You Can Find Additional Information."

The comparable yield and the projected payment schedule are not determined for any purpose other than for the determination of a U.S. Holder's interest accruals and adjustments thereof in respect of the notes for United States federal income tax purposes and do not constitute a projection or representation regarding the actual amounts payable to U.S. holders of the notes.

Adjustments to Interest Accruals on the Notes

If a U.S. Holder receives actual payments with respect to the notes in a tax year that in the aggregate exceed the total amount of projected payments for that tax year, the U.S. Holder will have a "net positive adjustment" equal to the amount of such excess. The U.S. Holder will be required to treat the "net positive adjustment" as additional interest income for the tax year. For this purpose, the payments in a tax year include the fair market value of any property received in that year.

If a U.S. Holder receives actual payments with respect to the notes in a tax year that in the aggregate are less than the amount of the projected payments for that tax year, the U.S. Holder will have a "net negative adjustment" equal to the amount of such deficit. This adjustment will (a) reduce the U.S. Holder's interest income on the notes for that tax year, and (b) to the extent of any excess after the application of (a), give rise to an ordinary loss to the extent of the U.S. Holder's interest income on the notes during prior tax years, reduced to the extent such interest income was offset by prior net negative adjustments. Any negative adjustment in excess of the amounts described in (a) and (b) will be carried forward to offset future interest income in respect of the notes or to reduce the amount realized upon a sale, exchange, repurchase or redemption of the notes.

A holder who has an adjusted basis in the notes different from the adjusted issue price (e.g., a holder who purchased at a price different from the adjusted issue price) must allocate the difference between the adjusted issue price and its tax basis to the accruals of interest or the projected payments in the notes over the remaining term of the notes. Such difference is (i) a positive adjustment for a holder whose adjusted tax basis is less than the adjusted issue price and (ii) a negative adjustment for a holder whose adjusted tax basis exceeds the adjusted issue price.

Sale, Exchange, Conversion, Repurchase or Redemption

Generally the sale, exchange, repurchase, or redemption of a note will result in gain or loss to a U.S. Holder, which will be subject to tax. As described above, our calculation of the comparable yield and the schedule of projected payments for the notes includes the receipt of shares of our common stock upon conversion as a contingent payment with respect to the notes. Accordingly, we intend to treat the payment of shares of our common stock to a U.S. Holder upon the conversion of a note as a contingent payment under the CPDI Regulations. As described above, U.S. Holders are generally bound by our determination of the comparable yield and the schedule of projected payments. Under this treatment, a conversion will also result in taxable gain or loss to a U.S. Holder. The amount of gain or loss on a taxable sale, exchange, conversion, repurchase or redemption will be equal to the difference between (a) the amount of cash plus the fair market value of any other property received by the U.S. Holder, including the fair market value of any shares of our common stock received, reduced by any negative adjustment carryforward as described above, and (b) the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a note on any date will generally be equal to

the U.S. Holder's original purchase price for the note, increased by any interest income previously accrued by the U.S. Holder under the CPDI Regulations as described above (determined without regard to any adjustments to interest accruals described above), and decreased by the amount of any projected payments, as described above, scheduled to be made on the notes to the U.S. Holder through such date (without regard to the actual amount paid).

Gain recognized upon a sale, exchange, conversion, repurchase or redemption of a note will generally be treated as ordinary interest income. Any loss recognized upon a sale, exchange, conversion, repurchase or redemption of a note will be treated as an ordinary loss to the extent of the excess of previous interest inclusions over the total negative adjustment previously taken into account as ordinary loss, and thereafter, as capital loss (which will be long-term if the note is held for more than one year). The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Under Treasury regulations intended to address so-called tax shelters and other tax-motivated transactions, a U.S. Holder that recognizes a loss that meets certain thresholds upon the sale, exchange, conversion, repurchase or redemption of a note may have to comply with certain disclosure requirements and should consult its tax advisor.

A U.S. Holder's tax basis in shares of our common stock received upon a conversion of a note will equal the fair market value of such common stock at the time of conversion. The U.S. Holder's holding period for the shares of our common stock received will commence on the day immediately following the date of conversion.

Constructive Dividends

If at any time we make a distribution of property to our stockholders that would be taxable to the stockholders as a dividend for United States federal income tax purposes and, in accordance with the anti-dilution provisions of the notes, the conversion rate of the notes is increased, such increase may be deemed to be the payment of a taxable dividend to U.S. Holders of the notes. For example, a Pre-Dividend Adjustment, or an increase in the conversion rate in the event of our distribution of our debt instruments or our assets will generally result in deemed dividend treatment to U.S. Holders of the notes, but an increase in the event of stock dividends or the distribution of rights to subscribe for our common stock will generally not.

Dividends on Common Stock

If we make cash distributions on our common stock, the distributions will generally be treated as dividends to a U.S. Holder of our common stock to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined under United States federal income tax principles at the end of the tax year of the distribution, then as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock, and thereafter as gain from the sale or exchange of that stock. Under recently enacted tax legislation, eligible dividends received in tax years beginning on or before December 31, 2008, will be subject to tax to a non-corporate U.S. Holder at the special reduced rate generally applicable to long-term capital gains. A U.S. Holder will be eligible for this reduced rate only if the U.S. Holder has held our common stock for more than 60 days during the 120-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date.

Disposition of Common Stock

Upon the sale or other disposition of our common stock received on conversion of a note, a U.S. Holder will generally recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between (i) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received upon the sale or exchange and (ii) the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in our common stock. That capital gain or loss will be long-term if the U.S. Holder's holding period in respect of such note is more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Under recently finalized Treasury regulations intended to address

so-called tax shelters and other tax-motivated transactions, a U.S. Holder that recognizes a loss that meets certain thresholds upon the sale or exchange of our common stock may have to comply with certain disclosure requirements and should consult its tax advisor.

Non-U.S. Holders

Notes

All payments on the notes made to a Non-U.S. Holder, including a payment in our common stock pursuant to a conversion, and any gain realized on a sale or exchange of the notes, will be exempt from United States income and withholding tax, provided that: (i) such Non-U.S. Holder does not own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote, (ii) such Non-U.S. Holder is not a controlled foreign corporation related, directly or indirectly, to us through stock ownership, (iii) such Non-U.S. Holder is not a bank receiving certain types of interest, (iv) the beneficial owner of the notes certifies, under penalties of perjury, to us or our paying agent on IRS Form W-8BEN that it is a United States person and provides its name, address and certain other required information or certain other certification requirements are satisfied, (v) such payments and gain are not effectively connected with the conduct by such Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States, and (vi) with respect only to gain realized on a sale, exchange or conversion of the notes, our common stock continues to be actively traded within the meaning of section 871(h)(4)(C)(v)(I) of the Code and we have not been a U.S. real property holding corporation, as defined in the Code, at any time within the five-year period preceding the disposition or the Non-U.S. Holder's holding period, whichever is shorter. We believe that we have not been during the past five years, are not, and do not anticipate becoming, a U.S. real property holding corporation.

If a Non-U.S. Holder of a note were deemed to have received a constructive dividend (see "U.S. Holders—Constructive Dividends" above), however, the Non-U.S. Holder would generally be subject to United States withholding tax at a 30% rate on the amount of such dividend, thereby potentially reducing the amount of interest payable to it, subject to reduction (i) by an applicable treaty if the Non-U.S. Holder provides an IRS Form W-8BEN certifying that it is entitled to such treaty benefits or (ii) upon the receipt of an IRS Form W-8ECI from a Non-U.S. Holder claiming that the constructive dividend on the notes is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business.

Common Stock

Dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder of common stock will generally be subject to withholding tax at a 30% rate subject to reduction (a) by an applicable treaty if the Non-U.S. Holder provides an IRS Form W-8BEN certifying that it is entitled to such treaty benefits or (b) upon the receipt of an IRS Form W-8ECI from a Non-U.S. Holder claiming that the payments are effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business.

A Non-U.S. Holder will generally not be subject to United States federal income tax on gain realized on the sale or exchange of the common stock received upon a conversion of notes unless (a) the gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder, (b) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder who is a nonresident alien individual, the individual is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are met, or (c) we will have been a U.S. real property holding corporation at any time within the shorter of the five-year period preceding such sale or exchange and the Non-U.S. Holder's holding period in the common stock. We believe that we have not been during the past five years, are not, and do not anticipate becoming, a U.S. real property holding corporation.

Income Effectively Connected with a United States Trade or Business

If a Non-U.S. Holder of notes or our common stock is engaged in a trade or business in the United States, and if interest on the notes, dividends on our common stock, or gain realized on the sale, exchange, conversion or other disposition of the notes and gain realized on the sale or exchange of our common stock is effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business, the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from the withholding tax discussed in the preceding paragraphs, will generally be subject to regular United States federal income tax on such interest, dividends or gain in the same manner as if it were a U.S. Holder. In addition, if such a Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, such holder may be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by an applicable treaty) of its effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year, subject to certain adjustments.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Payments of interest or dividends made by us on, or the proceeds of the sale or other disposition of, the notes or shares of common stock may be subject to information reporting and United States federal backup withholding tax at the rate then in effect if the recipient of such payment fails to supply an accurate taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with applicable United States information reporting or certification requirements. Any amount withheld under the backup withholding rules is allowable as a credit against the holder's United States federal income tax, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the new notes will be passed upon for us by Kramer, Coleman, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C., Jericho, New York. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York has also acted as counsel to us in connection with this registration statement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements as of and for the years ended September 30, 2002 and 2003 incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2003 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Our financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, incorporated by reference into this prospectus, were audited by Arthur Andersen LLP ("Andersen") who has ceased operations, as stated in their report dated November 6, 2001, which is also incorporated by reference herein. The report of Andersen was not reissued by Andersen and they did not give permission to use such report in this prospectus. The ability of Andersen to satisfy any claims (including claims arising from Andersen's provision of auditing and other services to us) may be limited as a practical matter due to events regarding Andersen.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We file reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. We have also filed a Schedule TO (the "Schedule") with the SEC, which Schedule also contains information regarding the exchange offer and Griffon. Such reports, proxy statements, and other information concerning us can be read and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. The SEC maintains an internet site at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information

statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including us. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "GFF." These reports, proxy statements, and other information are also available for inspection at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the New York Stock Exchange, you should call 212-656-5060.

The Securities and Exchange Commission allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the Securities and Exchange Commission will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made by us with the Commission prior to consummation of the exchange offer or the date of termination of the exchange offer under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003;
- our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended December 31, 2003 and March 31, 2004; and
- our Proxy Statement, dated December 30, 2003, on Schedule 14A relating to our Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on February 5, 2004.

We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents. Requests should be directed to Secretary, Griffon Corporation, 100 Jericho Quadrangle, Jericho, New York 11753.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents.

The information and exchange agent for the exchange offer is:
American Stock Transfer & Trust Company

By regular, registered or certified mail, hand delivery or overnight courier:

59 Maiden Lane, Plaza Level
New York, New York 10038
Attention: Exchange Department

By facsimile transmission (for eligible institutions only):
(718) 234-5001

For information or confirmation by telephone:
(877) 244-6417

Any questions or requests for assistance or additional copies of this prospectus and the letter of transmittal may be directed to the information agent at its telephone number and location set forth above. You may also contact your broker, dealer, commercial bank or trust company or other nominee for assistance concerning the exchange offer.

Part II Information Not Required in Prospectus

Item 20. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Under provisions of the By-Laws of Griffon, each person who is or was a director or officer of Griffon may be indemnified by Griffon to the full extent permitted or authorized by the General Corporation Law of Delaware.

Under such law, to the extent that such person is successful on the merits of defense of a suit or proceeding brought against him by reason of the fact that he is a director or officer of Griffon, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) reasonably incurred in connection with such action.

If unsuccessful in defense of a third-party civil suit or if a criminal suit is settled, such a person may be indemnified under such law against both (1) expenses (including attorneys' fees) and (2) judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of Griffon, and with respect to any criminal action, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

If unsuccessful in defense of a suit brought by or in the right of Griffon, or if such suit is settled, such a person may be indemnified under such law only against expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in the defense or settlement of such suit if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of Griffon except that if such a person is adjudged to be liable in such suit for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to Griffon, he cannot be made whole even for expenses unless the court determines that he is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses.

Determinations made as to whether such person has met the applicable standard of conduct in order to be indemnified shall be made (1) by a majority vote of the directors who are not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, even though less than a quorum, or (2) by a committee of such directors designated by majority vote of such directors, even though less than a quorum, or (3) if there are no such directors, or if such directors so direct, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (4) by the stockholders.

The indemnification and advancement of expenses shall, unless otherwise provided when authorized or ratified, continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

The officers and directors of Griffon are covered by officers and directors liability insurance. Griffon has entered into indemnification agreements with all of its officers and directors. The agreements provide for reimbursement for all direct and indirect costs of any type or nature whatsoever (including attorneys' fees and related disbursements) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with either the investigation, defense or appeal of a proceeding (as defined in such agreements) including amounts paid in settlement by or on behalf of an indemnitee.

Item 21. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a) Exhibits

Number	Exhibit
4.1	Form of New Notes Indenture between the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as trustee.
4.2	Form of New Note (included in Exhibit 4.1).

- 4.3 Form of Certificate Evidencing the Common Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of Registration Statement No. 333-109171).
- 4.4 Rights Agreement dated as of May 9, 1996 between Griffon Corporation and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 9, 1996).
- 4.5 Form of Old Notes Indenture between the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as trustee, including the form of Old Note (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Registration Statement No. 333-109171).
- 4.6 Supplemental Indenture between the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as trustee (old notes).
- 5.1 Opinion of Kramer, Coleman, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C.
- 12.1 Statement re: computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
- 23.1 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Independent Accountants.
- 23.2 Consent of Kramer, Coleman, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C. (contained in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 to this registration statement).
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney (included in the signature page hereof)
- 25.1 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.
- 99.1 Form of Letter of Transmittal.
- 99.2 Form of Notice of Guaranteed Delivery.
- 99.3 Form of Letter to Brokers, Dealers, Commercial Banks, Trust Companies and other Nominees.
- 99.4 Form of Letter to Clients.

Item 22. Undertakings

(a) The Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of any employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(b) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such

indemnification by them is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(c) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes as follows: that prior to any public reoffering of the securities registered hereunder through use of a prospectus which is a part of this registration statement, by any person or party who is deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Rule 145(c), the issuer undertakes that such reoffering prospectus will contain the information called for by the applicable registration form with respect to reofferings by persons who may be deemed underwriters, in addition to the information called for by the other Items of the applicable form.

(d) The undersigned Registrant undertakes that every prospectus (i) that is filed pursuant to paragraph (c) immediately preceding, or (ii) that purports to meet the requirements of section 10(a)(3) of the Act and is used in connection with an offering of securities subject to Rule 415, will be filed as a part of an amendment to the registration statement and will not be used until such amendment is effective, and that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(e) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to respond to requests for information that is incorporated by reference into the prospectus pursuant to Item 4, 10(b), 11 or 13 of Form S-4, within one business day of receipt of such request, and to send the incorporated documents by first-class mail or equally prompt means. This includes information contained in documents filed subsequent to the effective date of this Registration Statement through the date of responding to the request.

(f) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to supply by means of a post-effective amendment all information concerning a transaction, and the company being acquired involved therein, that was not the subject of and included in the Registration Statement when it became effective.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Jericho, State of New York, on May 21, 2004.

GRIFFON CORPORATION

By: /s/ HARVEY R. BLAU

Name: Harvey R. Blau
Title: *Chairman of the Board and Principal
Executive Officer*

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Harvey R. Blau and Robert Balemian and each of them individually, as his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign this Registration Statement filed herewith and any or all amendments to said Registration Statement (including post-effective amendments and registration statements filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933 and otherwise), and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents the full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the foregoing, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his or their substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement on Form S-4 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
_____ /s/ HARVEY R. BLAU _____ Harvey R. Blau	Chairman of the Board (Principal Executive Officer)	May 21, 2004
_____ /s/ ROBERT BALEMIAN _____ Robert Balemian	President and Director (Principal Financial Officer)	May 21, 2004
_____ /s/ PATRICK ALESIA _____ Patrick Alesia	Vice President and Treasurer (Principal Accounting Officer)	May 21, 2004
_____ /s/ HENRY A. ALPERT _____ Henry A. Alpert	Director	May 21, 2004

/s/ BERTRAND M. BELL

Bertrand M. Bell

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ ABRAHAM M. BUCHMAN

Abraham M. Buchman

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ ROBERT G. HARRISON

Robert G. Harrison

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ CLARENCE A. HILL, JR.

Clarence A. Hill, Jr.

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ RONALD J. KRAMER

Ronald J. Kramer

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ JAMES W. STANSBERRY

James W. Stansberry

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ MARTIN S. SUSSMAN

Martin S. Sussman

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ WILLIAM H. WALDORF

William H. Waldorf

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ JOSEPH WHALEN

Joseph Whalen

Director

May 21, 2004

/s/ LESTER L. WOLFF

Lester L. Wolff

Director

May 21, 2004

Exhibit Index

Number	Exhibit
4.1	Form of New Note Indenture between the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as trustee.
4.2	Form of New Note (included in Exhibit 4.1).
4.3	Form of Certificate Evidencing the Common Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of Registration Statement No. 333-109171).
4.4	Rights Agreement dated as of May 9, 1996 between Griffon Corporation and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company (incorporated by reference as Exhibit 1.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 9, 1996).
4.5	Form of Old Notes Indenture between the Company and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as trustee, including the form of Old Note (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Registration Statement No. 333-109171).
4.6	Supplemental Indenture between the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as trustee (old notes).
5.1	Opinion of Kramer, Coleman, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C.
12.1	Statement re: computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Independent Accountants.
23.2	Consent of Kramer, Coleman, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C. (contained in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 to this registration statement).
24.1	Powers of Attorney (included in the signature page hereof)
25.1	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.
99.1	Form of Letter of Transmittal.
99.2	Form of Notice of Guaranteed Delivery.
99.3	Form of Letter to Brokers, Dealers, Commercial Banks, Trust Companies and other Nominees.
99.4	Form of Letter to Clients.

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GRIFFON CORPORATION

**4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023
(second series)**

INDENTURE

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as Trustee

Dated as of June 21, 2004

CROSS-REFERENCE TABLE*

Trust Indenture Act Section	Indenture Section
310(a)(1)	7.10
(a)(2)	N.A.
(a)(3)	N.A.
(a)(4)	N.A.
(a)(5)	N.A.
(b)	7.10
(c)	N.A.
311(a)	7.11
(b)	7.11
(c)	N.A.
312(a)	N.A.
(b)	12.03
(c)	12.03
313(a)	7.06
(b)	7.06
(b)	7.06
(c)	N.A.
(d)	N.A.
314(a)	4.02, 4.03
(b)	N.A.
(c)(1)	11.04
(c)(2)	11.04
(c)(3)	N.A.
(d)	N.A.
(e)	N.A.
(f)	N.A.
315(a)	7.01(b)
(b)	7.05
(c)	N.A.
(d)	7.01(c)
(e)	6.11
316(a)(1)(A)	6.05
(a)(1)(B)	6.04
(a)(2)	N.A.
(b)	N.A.
(c)	N.A.
317(a)(1)	N.A.
(a)(2)	N.A.
(b)	N.A.
318(a)	N.A.

N.A. means not applicable.

* This Cross-Reference Table is not part of the Indenture.

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Exhibit A-1	—	Form of Global Security
Exhibit A-2	—	Form of Certificated Security
Exhibit B	—	Transfer Certificate

INDENTURE dated as of June 21, 2004 between Griffon Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, a trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York (the “Trustee”).

Each party agrees as follows for the benefit of the other party and for the equal and ratable benefit of the Holders (as defined below) of the Company’s 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series) (the “Securities”):

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Section 1.01. Definitions.

“144A Global Security” means a permanent Global Security in the form of the Security attached hereto as Exhibit A-1 that is deposited with and registered in the name of the Depository, representing Securities sold in reliance on Rule 144A under the Securities Act.

“Affiliate” has the meaning provided in Rule 405 under the Securities Act.

“Bankruptcy Law” means Title 11, U.S. Code or any similar federal, state, or foreign law for the relief of debtors.

“Beneficial Owner” shall be determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 and Rule 13d-5 promulgated by the SEC under the Exchange Act or any successor provision, except that, for purposes of the definition of Change in Control, a Person shall be deemed to have “Beneficial Ownership” of all shares of Common Stock that the Person has the right to acquire, whether exercisable immediately or only after the passage of time.

“Board of Directors” means either the board of directors of the Company or any duly authorized committee of such board authorized to act for it with respect to this Indenture.

“Board Resolution” means a copy of one or more resolutions, certified by an Officer of the Company to have been duly adopted or consented to by the applicable Board of Directors and to be in full force and effect, and delivered to the Trustee.

“Business Day” means a day that in the City of New York is not a day on which banking institutions are authorized or obligated by law or regulation to close.

“Capitalized Lease Obligations” means, as to any Person, the obligations of such Person under a lease that is required to be classified and accounted for as capital lease obligations under GAAP and, for purposes of this definition, the amount of such obligations at any date shall be the capitalized amount of such obligations at such date, determined in accordance with GAAP.

“Capital Stock” for any corporation means any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participations or other equivalents of or interests in (however designated) stock issued by that corporation.

“Cash Conversion Price” means, in respect of each \$1,000 of principal amount of a Security, an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the average of the Closing Price of the Common Stock for each Trading Day in the five Trading Day period immediately following (a) the date on which the Company delivers timely notice of its election to deliver cash instead of issuing shares of Common Stock in accordance with Section 10.02, if the Company has not given notice of redemption with respect to such Security or (b) the Conversion Date, if the Company has given notice of redemption with respect to such Security, in either case multiplied by (ii) the number of shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of such Security on such date and appropriately adjusted to take into account the occurrence, during such five Trading Day period, of any event requiring adjustment of the Conversion Price under this Indenture.

“Cash Equivalents” means (i) marketable direct obligations issued by, or unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States Government or issued by any agency thereof and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, in each case maturing within one year from the date of acquisition thereof; (ii) marketable direct obligations issued by any state of the United States of America or any political subdivision of any such state of the United States of America or any political subdivision of any such state or any public instrumentality thereof maturing within one year from the date of acquisition thereof and, at the time of acquisition, having one of the two highest ratings obtainable from either Standard & Poor’s, a division of the McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (“S&P”) or Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. (“Moody’s”); (iii) commercial paper maturing no more than one year from the date of acquisition thereof issued by any bank organized under the laws of the United States of America or any state thereof or the District of Columbia or any U.S. branch of a foreign bank having at the date of acquisition thereof combined capital and surplus of not less than \$250,000,000; (iv) repurchase obligations with a term of not more than seven days for underlying securities of the types described in clause (i) above entered into with any bank meeting the qualifications specified in clause (iii) above; and (v) money market funds which invest substantially all their assets in securities of the types described in clauses (i) through (iv) above.

“Certificated Securities” means Securities that are in the form of the Securities attached hereto as Exhibit A-2.

“Change in Control” shall be deemed to have occurred at such time after the original issuance of the Securities as:

(a) any sale, lease, exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, to any Person (including any syndicate or group deemed to be a “person” under Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act);

(b) the approval by the holders of the Capital Stock of the Company of any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the Company, whether or not otherwise in compliance with this Indenture;

(c) any Person (including any syndicate or group deemed to be a “person” under Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), other than the Company, any Subsidiary of the Company, any employee benefit plan of the Company or any such Subsidiary, is or becomes the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, through a purchase or other acquisition transaction or series of transactions (other than a merger or consolidation involving the Company), of shares of Capital Stock of the Company entitling such Person to exercise in excess of 30% of the aggregate ordinary voting power of all shares of Voting Stock of the Company; or

(d) the first day on which a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Company are not Continuing Directors.

“Closing Price” with respect to any security on any day means the closing sale price per security regular way on such day or, in case no such sale is reported for such day, the average of the reported closing bid and asked prices, regular way, in each case on the New York Stock Exchange, or, if such security is not listed or admitted to trading on such Exchange, on the principal national security exchange or quotation system on which such security is quoted or listed or admitted to trading, or, if not quoted or listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange or quotation system, the average of the closing bid and asked prices of such security on the over-the-counter market on the day in question as reported by the National Quotation Bureau Incorporated, or a similar generally accepted reporting service, or if not so available, the price furnished by any New York Stock Exchange member firm selected from time to time by the Board of Directors for that purpose, or a price determined in good faith by the Board of Directors or, to the extent permitted by applicable law, a duly authorized committee thereof, whose determination shall be conclusive.

“Common Stock” shall mean shares of the Company’s Common Stock, \$.25 par value per share, as they exist on the date of this Indenture or any other shares of Capital Stock of the Company into which the Common Stock shall be reclassified or changed.

“Company” means the party named as the “Company” in the first paragraph of this Indenture until a successor replaces it pursuant to the applicable provisions of this Indenture and, thereafter, shall mean such successor. The foregoing sentence shall likewise apply to any subsequent successor or successors.

“Company Order” means a written request or order signed in the name of the Company by any two Officers.

“Contingent Interest” shall mean an amount of interest payable at a rate equal to 0.50% per annum using a principal amount equal to the average of the Security Trading Price for the five Trading Days ending on the third Trading Day immediately preceding the first day for the applicable Contingent Interest Period (the “Contingent Interest Average Trading Price”) per \$1,000 of Securities in respect of any Contingent Interest Period, if the Contingent Interest Average Trading Price equals \$1,200 or more.

“Contingent Interest Period” shall mean any six-month interest period from July 18 to, but excluding, January 18, and from January 18 to, but excluding, July 18, with the initial six-month period commencing on July 18, 2010.

“Continuing Directors” means, as of any date of determination, any member of the Board of Directors who (a) was a member of the Board of Directors as of the date hereof or (b) was nominated for election or elected to the Board of Directors with approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members at the time of the new director’s nomination or election.

“Corporate Trust Office” means the office of the Trustee at which at any time the trust created by this Indenture shall be administered, which office at the date hereof is located at 59 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038, Attention: Corporate Trust Department, or such other address as the Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Holders and the Company, or the principal corporate trust office of any successor Trustee (or such other address as a successor Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Holders and the Company).

“Credit Agreement” means the Loan Agreement, dated as of October 25, 2001, among the Company, Telephonics Corporation, the lenders party thereto and Fleet National Bank, as Administrative Agent and The Chase Manhattan Bank, as Documentation Agent, together with the related documents thereto (including, without limitation, any guarantee agreements and security documents), in each case as such agreement may be amended (including any amendment and restatement thereof), supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, including any agreement extending the maturity of, refinancing, replacing or otherwise restructuring (including increasing the amount of available borrowings thereunder or adding Subsidiaries of the Company as additional borrowers or guarantors thereunder) all or any portion of the Indebtedness under such agreement or any successor or replacement agreement and whether by the same or any other agent, lender or group of lenders.

“Default” means any event which is, or after notice or passage of time or both would be, an Event of Default.

“Designated Senior Indebtedness” means (i) Indebtedness under or in respect of the Credit Agreement and (ii) any particular Senior Indebtedness of the Company in which the instrument creating or evidencing the same or the assumption or guarantee thereof (or any related agreements or documents to which the Company is a party) expressly provides that such Senior Indebtedness shall be “Designated Senior Indebtedness” for purposes of this Indenture (provided that such instrument, agreement or other document may place limitations and conditions on the right of such Senior Indebtedness to exercise the rights of Designated Senior Indebtedness).

“Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as in effect from time to time.

“GAAP” means generally accepted accounting principles set forth in the opinions and pronouncements of the Accounting Principles Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and statements and pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards

Board or in such other statements by such other entity as may be approved by a significant segment of the accounting profession of the United States, which are in effect from time to time.

“Global Securities” means Securities that are in the form of the Securities attached hereto as Exhibit A-1, and, to the extent that such Securities are required to bear the legend required by Section 2.06, such Securities will be in the form of a 144A Global Security.

“Holder” or “Securityholder” means a Person in whose name a Security is registered on the Registrar’s books.

“Indebtedness” means, with respect to any Person, without duplication, (a) all indebtedness, obligations and other liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of such Person (i) for borrowed money (including obligations of such Person in respect of overdrafts, and any loans or advances from banks, whether or not evidenced by notes or similar instruments) or (ii) evidenced by credit or loan agreements, bonds, debentures, notes or similar instruments (whether or not the recourse of the lender is to the whole of the assets of such Person or to only a portion thereof) (other than any accounts payable or other accrued current liability or obligation incurred in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of materials or services), (b) all reimbursement obligations and other liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of such Person with respect to letters of credit, bank guarantees or bankers’ acceptances, (c) all obligations and liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of such Person (i) in respect of Capitalized Lease Obligations or (ii) under any lease or related document (including a purchase agreement, conditional sale or other title retention agreement) in connection with the lease of real property or improvements thereon (or any personal property included as part of any such lease) which provides that such Person is contractually obligated to purchase or cause a third party to purchase the leased property or pay an agreed-upon residual value of the leased property to the lessor (whether or not such lease transaction is characterized as an operating lease or a Capitalized Lease Obligation), (d) all obligations (contingent or otherwise) of such Person with respect to any interest rate or other swap, cap, floor or collar agreement, hedge agreement, forward contract, or other similar instrument or agreement or foreign currency hedge, exchange, purchase or similar instrument or agreement, (e) all direct or indirect guaranties or similar agreements by such Person in respect of, and obligations or liabilities of such Person to purchase or otherwise acquire or otherwise assure a creditor against loss in respect of, indebtedness, obligations or liabilities of another Person of the kinds described in clauses (a) through (d), and (f) any and all deferrals, renewals, extensions, refinancings and refundings of, or amendments, modifications or supplements to, any indebtedness, obligation or liability of the kinds described in clauses (a) through (e); provided, however, that Indebtedness shall not include obligations and liabilities of such Person (x) arising from the honoring by a bank or other financial institution of a check, draft or similar instrument inadvertently drawn against insufficient funds in the ordinary course of business, provided such obligations are extinguished within two Business Days of their incurrence, (y) resulting from the endorsement of negotiable instruments for collection in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past business practices or (z) stand-by letters of credit to the extent collateralized by cash or Cash Equivalents.

“Indenture” means this Indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms hereof, including the provisions of the TIA that are deemed to be a part hereof.

“Initial Purchasers” shall mean Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Jefferies & Company, Inc. and Legg Mason Wood Walker Incorporated.

“Issue Date” of any Security means the date on which the Security was originally issued or deemed issued as set forth on the face of the Security.

“Liquidated Damages” has the meaning set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement dated as of July 18, 2003 between the Company and the Initial Purchasers.

“Market Price” means the average of the Closing Prices per share of Common Stock for 20 consecutive Trading Days commencing 30 Trading Days before the record date with respect to any distribution, issuance or other event requiring such computation, appropriately adjusted (as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company, whose determination shall be conclusive) to take into account the occurrence, during the period commencing on the first of such 20 consecutive Trading Days and ending on such record date, of any event requiring adjustment of the Conversion Price under this Indenture.

“Non-Recourse Indebtedness” means any Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries that is (i) (A) specifically advanced to finance the acquisition of investment assets and (B) secured only by the assets to which such Indebtedness relates without recourse to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, (ii) advanced to a Subsidiary of the Company or group of Subsidiaries of the Company formed for the sole purpose of acquiring or holding investment assets (A) against which a loan is obtained that is made without recourse to, and with no cross-collateralization against the assets of, the Company or any other Subsidiary of the Company, and (B) upon complete or partial liquidation of which the loan must be correspondingly completely or partially repaid, as the case may be, or (iii) specifically advanced to finance the acquisition of real property and secured by only the real property to which such Indebtedness relates without recourse to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

“Obligations” means all obligations for principal, premium, interest, penalties, fees, indemnifications, reimbursements, damages and other liabilities payable under the documentation under which any Indebtedness is created, evidenced or secured, including in the case of the Securities, Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any.

“Officer” means the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the President, any Vice President (whether or not such is preceded by any modifier such as “Executive,” “Senior” or the like), the Chief Financial Officer, the Treasurer, the Controller or the Secretary of such Person or any other officer designated by the board of directors of such Person serving in a similar capacity; provided, that the designation of any such Officer by the Board of Directors of the Company shall be evidenced in a Board Resolution.

“Officers’ Certificate” means a written certificate containing the information specified in Sections 12.04 and 12.05, signed in the name of the Company by any two Officers,

and delivered to the Trustee. An Officers' Certificate given pursuant to Section 4.03 shall be signed by the principal executive officer, principal financial officer or the principal accounting officer of the Company but need not contain the information specified in Sections 12.04 and 12.05.

"Opinion of Counsel" means a written opinion containing the information specified in Section 12.04 and 12.05, from legal counsel who is acceptable to the Trustee in its reasonable discretion. The counsel may be an employee of, or counsel to, the Company or the Trustee.

"Person" or "Persons" means any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, government or any agency or political subdivision thereof or other entity.

"Recourse Indebtedness" means all Indebtedness of the Company and its Subsidiaries other than Non-Recourse Indebtedness.

"Redemption Date" or "Redemption Dates" shall mean the date specified for redemption of the Securities in accordance with the terms of the Securities and this Indenture.

"Redemption Price" or "Redemption Prices" shall have the meaning set forth in paragraph 5 of the Securities.

"Responsible Officer" shall mean, when used with respect to the Trustee, any officer within the corporate trust department of the Trustee, including any vice president, assistant vice president, assistant secretary, assistant treasurer, trust officer or any other officer of the Trustee who customarily performs functions similar to those performed by the Persons who at the time shall be such officers, respectively, or to whom any corporate trust matter is referred because of such person's knowledge of and familiarity with the particular subject and who shall have direct responsibility for the administration of this Indenture.

"Representative" means the indenture trustee or other trustee, agent or representative in respect of any Designated Senior Indebtedness; *provided, however*, that if, and for so long as, any Designated Senior Indebtedness lacks such a representative, then the Representative for such Designated Senior Indebtedness shall at all times constitute the holders of a majority in outstanding principal amount of such Designated Senior Indebtedness in respect of any Designated Senior Indebtedness.

"Restricted Security" means a Security required to bear the restrictive legend set forth in the form of Security set forth in Exhibits A-1 and A-2 of this Indenture.

"Rule 144A" means Rule 144A under the Securities Act (or any successor provision), as it may be amended from time to time.

"SEC" means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“Security” or “Securities” means any of the Company’s 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023, as amended or supplemented from time to time, issued under this Indenture.

“Security Trading Price” per \$1,000 in principal amount of Securities on any date of determination means the average of the secondary market bid quotations per \$1,000 in principal amount of Securities obtained by the Conversion Agent for \$5,000,000 in principal amount of Securities at approximately 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on such determination date from three independent nationally recognized securities dealers selected by the Company; provided that if at least three such bids cannot reasonably be obtained by the Conversion Agent, but two such bids are obtained, then the average of the two bids shall be used, and if only one such bid can reasonably be obtained by the Conversion Agent, such one bid shall be used. If the Conversion Agent cannot reasonably obtain at least one bid for \$5,000,000 in principal amount of Securities from a nationally recognized securities dealer or, in the reasonable judgment of the Company, the bid quotations are not indicative of the secondary market value of the Securities, then the Security Trading Price will be determined in good faith by the calculation agent (which shall initially be the Trustee unless the Trustee shall have appointed a calculation agent, which may be any investment bank with a national or international reputation with experience in such matters, including the Initial Purchasers or their successors) taking into account in such determination such factors as it, in its sole discretion after consultation with the Company, deems appropriate.

“Securities Act” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as in effect from time to time.

“Securityholder” or “Holder” means a Person in whose name a Security is registered on the Registrar’s books.

“Senior Indebtedness” means the principal of, premium, if any, interest (including all interest accruing subsequent to the commencement of any bankruptcy or similar proceeding, whether or not a claim for post-petition interest is allowed as a claim in any such proceeding) and rent payable on or in connection with, and all fees, costs, expenses and other amounts accrued or due on or in connection with, Indebtedness of the Company, whether secured or unsecured, absolute or contingent, due or to become due, outstanding on the date of this Indenture or thereafter created, incurred, assumed, guaranteed or in effect guaranteed by the Company (including all deferrals, renewals, extensions or refundings of, or amendments, modifications or supplements to, the foregoing). Senior indebtedness does not include (i) any indebtedness or obligation whose terms expressly provide that such indebtedness or obligation shall not be senior in right of payment to the Securities or expressly provides that such indebtedness is equal or pari passu in right of payment with or junior in right of payment to the Securities; (ii) any indebtedness of the Company to any Subsidiary of the Company and (iii) the Securities.

“Significant Subsidiary” has the meaning ascribed to such term in Regulation S-X (17 CFR Part 210).

“Stated Maturity”, when used with respect to any Security, means the date specified in such Security as the fixed date on which an amount equal to the principal amount of such Security is due and payable.

“Subsidiary” means, with respect to any Person, (i) any corporation of which the outstanding Capital Stock having at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors under ordinary circumstances (determined without regard to any classification of directors) shall at the time be owned, directly or indirectly, by such Person, (ii) any other Person (other than a partnership) of which at least a majority of the voting interest under ordinary circumstances is at the time, directly or indirectly, owned by such Person or (iii) any partnership (a) the sole general partner or the managing general partner of which is such Person or a Subsidiary of such Person or (b) the only general partners of which are such Person or one or more Subsidiaries of such Person (or any combination thereof).

“TIA” means the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 as in effect on the date of this Indenture, provided, however, that in the event the TIA is amended after such date, TIA means, to the extent required by any such amendment, the TIA as so amended.

“Trading Day” means (x) if the applicable security is listed or admitted for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, or another national security exchange, a day on which the New York Stock Exchange or such other national security exchange is open for business or (y) if the applicable security is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market, a day on which trades may be made thereon or (z) if the applicable security is not so listed, admitted for trading or quoted, any day other than a Saturday or Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in the State of New York are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

“Trustee” means the party named as the “Trustee” in the first paragraph of this Indenture until a successor replaces it pursuant to the applicable provisions of this Indenture and, thereafter, shall mean such successor. The foregoing sentence shall likewise apply to any subsequent such successor or successors.

“U.S. Government Obligations” means direct obligations of, and obligations guaranteed by, the United States of America for the payment of which the full faith and credit of the United States of America is pledged.

“Voting Stock” of a Person means Capital Stock of such Person of the class or classes pursuant to which the holders thereof have the general voting power under ordinary circumstances (determined without regard to any classification of directors) to elect at least a majority of the board of directors, managers or trustees of such Person (irrespective of whether or not at the time Capital Stock of any other class or classes shall have or might have voting power by reason of the happening of any contingency).

Section 1.02. Other Definitions.

Term	<u>Defined in Section:</u>
Acceleration Notice	6.02(a)
Act	1.05(a)
Agent Members	2.12(e)(v)
Change in Control Purchase Date	3.09(a)
Change in Control Purchase Price	3.09(a)
Company Change in Control Notice	3.09(b)
Company Notice	3.08(b)
Company Notice Date	3.08(b)
Conversion Agent	2.03
Conversion Date	10.02
Conversion Price	10.06
Depository	2.01(b)
DTC	2.01(b)
Event of Default	6.01
Ex-Dividend Date	10.01
Expiration Time	10.06(d)
Legal Holiday	12.08
Legend	2.06(f)
Paying Agent	2.03
Payment Blockage Period	11.02(a)
Purchase Date	3.08(a)
Purchase Notice	3.08(a)(i)
Purchase Price	3.08(a)
Purchased Shares	10.06(d)
QIB	2.01(b)
Quarter	10.01(a)
Registrar	2.03
Rule 144A Information	4.06

Section 1.03. Incorporation by Reference of Trust Indenture Act. Whenever this Indenture refers to a provision of the TIA, the provision is incorporated by reference in and made a part of this Indenture. The following TIA terms used in this Indenture have the following meanings:

“Commission” means the SEC.

“Indenture Securities” means the Securities.

“Indenture Security Holder” means a Securityholder.

“Indenture to be Qualified” means this Indenture.

“Indenture Trustee” or “Institutional Trustee” means the Trustee.

“Obligor” on the indenture securities means the Company.

All other TIA terms used in this Indenture that are defined by the TIA, defined by a TIA reference to another statute or defined by an SEC rule have the meanings assigned to them by such definitions.

Section 1.04. Rules of Construction. Unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) a term has the meaning assigned to it;
- (b) an accounting term not otherwise defined has the meaning assigned to it in accordance with GAAP;
- (c) “or” is not exclusive;
- (d) “including” means including, without limitation; and
- (e) words in the singular include the plural, and words in the plural include the singular.

Section 1.05. Acts of Holders.

(a) Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action provided by this Indenture to be given or taken by Holders may be embodied in and evidenced by one or more instruments of substantially similar tenor signed by such Holders in person or by agent duly appointed in writing; and, except as herein otherwise expressly provided, such action shall become effective when such instrument or instruments are delivered to the Trustee and, where it is hereby expressly required, to the Company. Such instrument or instruments (and the action embodied therein and evidenced thereby) are herein sometimes referred to as the “Act” of Holders signing such instrument or instruments. Proof of execution of any such instrument or of a writing appointing any such agent shall be sufficient for any purpose of this Indenture and conclusive in favor of the Trustee and the Company, if made in the manner provided in this Section.

(b) The fact and date of the execution by any Person of any such instrument or writing may be proved by the affidavit of a witness of such execution or by a certificate of a notary public or other officer authorized by law to take acknowledgments of deeds, certifying that the individual signing such instrument or writing acknowledged to such officer the execution thereof. Where such execution is by a signer acting in a capacity other than such signer’s individual capacity, such certificate or affidavit shall also constitute sufficient proof of such signer’s authority.

The fact and date of the execution of any such instrument or writing, or the authority of the Person executing the same, may also be proved in any other manner which the Trustee deems sufficient.

(c) The ownership of Securities shall be proved by the register maintained by the Registrar.

(d) Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act of the Holder of any Security shall bind every future Holder of the same Security and the holder of every Security issued upon the registration of transfer thereof or in exchange therefor or in lieu thereof in respect of anything done, omitted or suffered to be done by the Trustee or the Company in reliance thereon, whether or not notation of such action is made upon such Security.

(e) If the Company shall solicit from the Holders any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act, the Company may, at its option, by or pursuant to a Board Resolution, fix in advance a record date for the determination of Holders entitled to give such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act, but the Company shall have no obligation to do so. If such a record date is fixed, such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act may be given before or after such record date, but only the Holders of record at the close of business on such record date shall be deemed to be Holders for the purposes of determining whether Holders of the requisite proportion of outstanding Securities have authorized or agreed or consented to such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other Act, and for that purpose the outstanding Securities shall be computed as of such record date; provided that no such authorization, agreement or consent by the Holders on such record date shall be deemed effective unless it shall become effective pursuant to the provisions of this Indenture not later than six months after the record date.

ARTICLE 2

THE SECURITIES

Section 2.01. Form and Dating. (a) Forms. The Securities and the Trustee's certificate of authentication shall be substantially in the forms set forth on Exhibits A-1 and A-2, which are a part of this Indenture and incorporated by reference herein. The Securities may have notations, legends or endorsements required by law, stock exchange rule or usage; provided that any such notation, legend or endorsement required by usage is in a form acceptable to the Company. The Company shall provide any such notations, legends or endorsements to the Trustee in writing. Each Security shall be dated the date of its authentication.

(b) 144A Global Securities. Securities offered and sold to qualified institutional buyers as defined in Rule 144A ("QIBs") in reliance on Rule 144A shall be issued, initially only in the form of a Global Security, which shall be deposited with the Trustee at its Corporate Trust Office, as custodian for the Depository and registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or the nominee thereof (such depository, or any successor thereto, and any such nominee being hereinafter referred to as the "Depository"), duly executed by the Company and authenticated by the Trustee as hereinafter provided. The aggregate principal amount of the 144A Global Security may from time to time be increased or decreased by adjustments made on the records of the Trustee and the Depository as hereinafter provided.

(c) Global Securities in General. Each Global Security shall represent such of the outstanding Securities as shall be specified therein and each shall provide that it shall represent the aggregate amount of outstanding Securities from time to time endorsed thereon and that the aggregate amount of outstanding Securities represented thereby may from time to time be reduced or increased, as appropriate, to reflect exchanges, redemptions and conversions.

Any adjustment of the aggregate principal amount of a Global Security to reflect the amount of any increase or decrease in the amount of outstanding Securities represented thereby shall be made by the Trustee as required by Section 2.12 hereof and shall be made on the records of the Trustee and the Depositary.

(d) Book-Entry Provisions. The Company shall execute and the Trustee shall, in accordance with this Section 2.01(d), authenticate and deliver initially one or more Global Securities that (a) shall be registered in the name of the Depositary, (b) shall be delivered by the Trustee to the Depositary or pursuant to the Depositary's instructions and (c) shall bear legends substantially to the following effect:

“UNLESS THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY TO GRIFFON CORPORATION (THE “COMPANY”) OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY CERTIFICATE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR IN SUCH OTHER NAME AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY (AND ANY PAYMENT HEREON IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL SINCE THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN. TRANSFERS OF THIS GLOBAL SECURITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS TO NOMINEES OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY OR TO A SUCCESSOR THEREOF OR SUCH SUCCESSOR'S NOMINEE AND TRANSFERS OF PORTIONS OF THIS GLOBAL SECURITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE TWO OF THE INDENTURE REFERRED TO ON THE REVERSE HEREOF.”

(e) Certificated Securities. Securities not issued as interests in the Global Securities will be issued in certificated form substantially in the form of Exhibit A-2 attached hereto.

Section 2.02. Execution and Authentication. The Securities shall be executed on behalf of the Company by the manual or facsimile signature of any Officer.

Securities bearing the manual or facsimile signatures of individuals who were at the time of the execution of the Securities the proper Officers of the Company shall bind the Company, notwithstanding that such individuals or any of them have ceased to hold such offices prior to the authentication and delivery of such Securities or did not hold such offices at the date of authentication of such Securities.

No Security shall be entitled to any benefit under this Indenture or be valid or obligatory for any purpose unless there appears on such Security a certificate of authentication substantially in the form provided for herein duly executed by the Trustee by manual signature of an authorized signatory, and such certificate upon any Security shall be conclusive evidence, and the only evidence, that such Security has been duly authenticated and delivered hereunder.

The Trustee shall authenticate and deliver Securities for original issue in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$130,000,000 upon a Company Order without any further action by the Company. The aggregate principal amount of Securities outstanding at any time may not exceed the amount set forth in the foregoing sentence, except as provided in Section 2.07.

The Securities shall be issued only in registered form without coupons and only in denominations of \$1,000 of principal amount and any integral multiple thereof.

Section 2.03. Registrar, Paying Agent and Conversion Agent. The Company shall maintain an office or agency where Securities may be presented for registration of transfer or for exchange ("Registrar"), an office or agency where Securities may be presented for purchase or payment ("Paying Agent") and an office or agency where Securities may be presented for conversion ("Conversion Agent"). The Registrar shall keep a register of the Securities and of their transfer and exchange. The Company may have one or more co-registrars, one or more additional paying agents and one or more additional conversion agents. The term Paying Agent includes any additional paying agent, including any named pursuant to Section 4.05. The term Conversion Agent includes any additional conversion agent, including any named pursuant to Section 4.05.

The Company shall enter into an appropriate agency agreement with any Registrar, Paying Agent, Conversion Agent or co-registrar (other than the Trustee). Such agreement shall implement the provisions of this Indenture that relate to such agent. The Company shall notify the Trustee of the name and address of any such agent. If the Company fails to maintain a Registrar, Paying Agent or Conversion Agent, the Trustee shall act as such and shall be entitled to appropriate compensation therefor pursuant to Section 7.07. The Company or any Subsidiary or an Affiliate of either of them may act as Paying Agent, Registrar, Conversion Agent or co-registrar.

The Company initially appoints the Trustee as Registrar, Conversion Agent and Paying Agent in connection with the Securities.

Section 2.04. Paying Agent to Hold Money in Trust. Except as otherwise provided herein, not later 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the Business Day prior to each due date of payments in respect of any Security, the Company shall deposit with the Paying Agent a sum of money sufficient to make such payments when so becoming due. The Company shall require each Paying Agent (other than the Trustee) to agree in writing that the Paying Agent shall hold in trust for the benefit of Holders or the Trustee all money held by the Paying Agent for the making of payments in respect of the Securities and shall notify the Trustee of any Default by the Company in making any such payment. At any time during the continuance of any such Default, the Paying Agent shall, upon the written request of the Trustee, forthwith pay to the Trustee all moneys held in trust. If the Company, a Subsidiary or an Affiliate of either of them acts as Paying Agent, it shall segregate the money held by it as Paying Agent and hold it as a separate trust fund. The Company at any time may require the Paying Agent to pay all money held by it to the Trustee and to account for any funds disbursed by it. Upon doing so, the Paying Agent shall have no further liability for such money or shares of Common Stock, as the case may be.

Section 2.05. Holder Lists. The Trustee shall preserve in as current a form as is reasonably practicable the most recent list available to it of the names and addresses of Holders. If the Trustee is not the Registrar, the Company shall cause to be furnished to the Trustee at least semiannually on January 10 and July 10 and at such other times as the Trustee may request in writing a list in such form and as of such date as the Trustee may reasonably require of the names and addresses of Holders, which list may be dated not more than 15 days prior to the time such information is furnished; provided however, that the list of Holders provided on January 10 and July 10 shall contain the list of Holders as of the immediately preceding January 1 and July 1, respectively.

Section 2.06. Transfer and Exchange.

(a) Subject to Section 2.12 hereof, upon surrender for registration of transfer of any Securities, together with a written instrument of transfer satisfactory to the Registrar duly executed by the Securityholder or such Securityholder's attorney duly authorized in writing, at the office or agency of the Company designated as Registrar or co-registrar pursuant to Section 2.03, the Company shall execute and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver, in the name of the designated transferee or transferees, one or more new Securities of any authorized denomination or denominations, of a like aggregate principal amount. The Company shall not charge a service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to pay all taxes, assessments or other governmental charges that may be imposed in connection with the transfer or exchange of the Securities from the Securityholder requesting such transfer or exchange.

At the option of the Holder, Securities may be exchanged for other Securities of any authorized denomination or denominations, of a like aggregate principal amount, upon surrender of the Securities to be exchanged, together with a written instrument of transfer satisfactory to the Registrar duly executed by the Securityholder or such Securityholder's attorney duly authorized in writing, at such office or agency. Whenever any Securities are so

surrendered for exchange, the Company shall execute, and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver, the Securities that the Holder making the exchange is entitled to receive.

The Company shall not be required to make, and the Registrar need not register, transfers or exchanges of Securities selected for redemption (except, in the case of Securities to be redeemed in part, the portion thereof not to be redeemed) or any Securities in respect of which a Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice has been given and not withdrawn by the Holder thereof in accordance with the terms of this Indenture (except, in the case of Securities to be purchased in part, the portion thereof not to be purchased) or any Securities for a period of 15 days before the mailing of a notice of redemption of Securities to be redeemed.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, so long as a Global Security remains outstanding and is held by or on behalf of the Depositary, transfers of a Global Security, in whole or in part, shall be made only in accordance with Section 2.12 and this Section 2.06(b). Transfers of a Global Security shall be limited to transfers of such Global Security in whole, or in part, to nominees of the Depositary or to a successor of the Depositary or such successor's nominee.

(c) Successive registrations and registrations of transfers and exchanges as aforesaid may be made from time to time as desired, and each such registration shall be noted on the register for the Securities.

(d) Any Registrar appointed pursuant to Section 2.03 hereof shall provide to the Trustee such information as the Trustee may reasonably require in connection with the delivery by such Registrar of Securities upon transfer or exchange of Securities.

(e) No Registrar shall be required to make registrations of transfer or exchange of Securities during any periods designated in the text of the Securities or in this Indenture as periods during which such registration of transfers and exchanges need not be made.

(f) If Securities are issued upon the transfer, exchange or replacement of Securities subject to restrictions on transfer and bearing the legends set forth on the forms of Securities attached hereto as Exhibits A-1 and A-2 setting forth such restrictions (collectively, the "Legend"), or if a request is made to remove the Legend on a Security, the Securities so issued shall bear the Legend, or the Legend shall not be removed, as the case may be, unless there is delivered to the Company and the Registrar such satisfactory evidence, which shall include an Opinion of Counsel, as may be reasonably required by the Company and the Registrar, that neither the Legend nor the restrictions on transfer set forth therein are required to ensure that transfers thereof comply with the provisions of Rule 144A or Rule 144 under the Securities Act or that such Securities are not "restricted" within the meaning of Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Upon (i) provision of such satisfactory evidence, or (ii) notification by the Company to the Trustee and registrar of the sale of such Security pursuant to a registration statement that is effective at the time of such sale, the Trustee, at the written direction of the Company, shall authenticate and deliver a Security that does not bear the Legend. If the Legend is removed from the face of a Security and the Security is subsequently held by an Affiliate of the Company, the Legend shall be reinstated.

Section 2.07. Replacement Securities. If any mutilated Security is surrendered to the Trustee, or the Company and the Trustee receive evidence to their satisfaction of the destruction, loss or theft of any Security, and there is delivered to the Company and the Trustee such security or indemnity as may be required by them to save each of them harmless, then, in the absence of notice to the Company or the Trustee that such Security has been acquired by a protected purchaser (within the meaning of Section 8-303 of the Uniform Commercial Code), the Company shall execute, and upon the Company's written request the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver, in exchange for any such mutilated Security or in lieu of any such destroyed, lost or stolen Security, a new Security of like tenor and principal amount, bearing a number not contemporaneously outstanding.

In case any such mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Security has become or is about to become due and payable, or is about to be purchased by the Company pursuant to Article 3 hereof, the Company in its discretion may, instead of issuing a new Security, pay or purchase such Security, as the case may be.

Upon the issuance of any new Securities under this Section, the Company may require the payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in relation thereto and any other expenses (including the fees and expenses of the Trustee) connected therewith.

Every new Security issued pursuant to this Section in lieu of any mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Security shall constitute an original additional contractual obligation of the Company, whether or not the destroyed, lost or stolen Security shall be at any time enforceable by anyone, and shall be entitled to all benefits of this Indenture equally and proportionately with any and all other Securities duly issued hereunder.

The provisions of this Section are exclusive and shall preclude (to the extent lawful) all other rights and remedies with respect to the replacement or payment of mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Securities.

Section 2.08. Outstanding Securities; Determinations of Holders' Action. Securities outstanding at any time are all the Securities authenticated by the Trustee, except for those cancelled by it, those paid pursuant to Section 2.07, those delivered to it for cancellation pursuant to Section 2.10 and those described in this Section 2.08 as not outstanding. A Security does not cease to be outstanding because the Company or an Affiliate thereof holds the Security; provided, however, that in determining whether the Holders of the requisite principal amount of Securities have given or concurred in any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent or waiver hereunder, Securities owned by the Company or any other obligor upon the Securities or any Affiliate of the Company or such other obligor shall be disregarded and deemed not to be outstanding, except that, in determining whether the Trustee shall be protected in relying upon any such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent or waiver, only Securities which a Responsible Officer of the Trustee actually knows to be so owned shall be so disregarded. Subject to the foregoing, only Securities outstanding at the time of such determination shall be considered in any such determination (including, without limitation, determinations pursuant to Articles 6 and 9).

If a Security is replaced pursuant to Section 2.07, it ceases to be outstanding unless the Trustee receives proof satisfactory to it that the replaced Security is held by a protected purchaser.

If the Paying Agent holds, in accordance with this Indenture, on a Redemption Date, or on the Business Day following a Purchase Date or a Change in Control Purchase Date, or on Stated Maturity, money sufficient to pay amounts owed with respect to Securities payable on that date, then immediately after such Redemption Date, Purchase Date, Change in Control Purchase Date or Stated Maturity, as the case may be, such Securities shall cease to be outstanding and interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), on such Securities shall cease to accrue; provided that if such Securities are to be redeemed, notice of such redemption has been duly given pursuant to this Indenture or provision therefor satisfactory to the Trustee has been made.

If a Security is converted in accordance with Article 10, then from and after the time of conversion on the Conversion Date, such Security shall cease to be outstanding and interest (including Contingent Interest, if any), shall cease to accrue on such Security.

Section 2.09. Temporary Securities. Pending the preparation of definitive Securities, the Company may execute, and upon Company Order the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver, temporary Securities that are printed, lithographed, typewritten, mimeographed or otherwise produced, in any authorized denomination, substantially of the tenor of the definitive Securities in lieu of which they are issued and with such appropriate insertions, omissions, substitutions and other variations as the Officers executing such Securities may determine, as conclusively evidenced by their execution of such Securities.

If temporary Securities are issued, the Company will cause definitive Securities to be prepared without unreasonable delay. After the preparation of definitive Securities, the temporary Securities shall be exchangeable for definitive Securities upon surrender of the temporary Securities at the office or agency of the Company designated for such purpose pursuant to Section 2.03, without charge to the Holder. Upon surrender for cancellation of any one or more temporary Securities, the Company shall execute and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver in exchange therefor a like principal amount of definitive Securities of authorized denominations. Until so exchanged, the temporary Securities shall in all respects be entitled to the same benefits under this Indenture as definitive Securities.

Section 2.10. Cancellation. All Securities surrendered for payment, purchase by the Company pursuant to Article 3, conversion, redemption or registration of transfer or exchange (other than Securities converted pursuant to Section 10.02) shall, if surrendered to any Person other than the Trustee, be delivered to the Trustee and shall be promptly cancelled by it. The Company may at any time deliver to the Trustee for cancellation any Securities previously authenticated and delivered hereunder that the Company may have acquired in any manner whatsoever, and all Securities so delivered shall be promptly cancelled by the Trustee. The Company may not issue new Securities to replace Securities it has paid or delivered to the Trustee for cancellation or that any Holder has converted pursuant to Article 10. No Securities shall be authenticated in lieu of or in exchange for any Securities cancelled as provided in this

Section, except as expressly permitted by this Indenture. All cancelled Securities held by the Trustee shall be disposed of by the Trustee in accordance with the Trustee's customary procedure.

Section 2.11. Persons Deemed Owners. Prior to due presentation of a Security for registration of transfer, the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name such Security is registered as the owner of such Security for the purpose of receiving payment of the principal amount of the Security or the payment of any Redemption Price, Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price in respect thereof, and accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) thereon, for the purpose of conversion and for all other purposes whatsoever, whether or not such Security be overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee nor any agent of the Company or the Trustee shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

Section 2.12. Global Securities.

(a) A Global Security may not be transferred, in whole or in part, to any Person other than the Depositary or a nominee or any successor thereof, and no such transfer to any such other Person may be registered; provided that the foregoing shall not prohibit any transfer of a Security that is issued in exchange for a Global Security but is not itself a Global Security. No transfer of a Security to any Person shall be effective under this Indenture or the Securities unless and until such Security has been registered in the name of such Person. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Indenture or the Securities, transfers of a Global Security, in whole or in part, shall be made only in accordance with Section 2.06 and this Section 2.12.

(b) Subject to the succeeding paragraph, every Security shall be subject to the restrictions on transfer provided in the Legend including the delivery of an Opinion of Counsel, if so provided. Whenever any Restricted Security is presented or surrendered for registration of transfer or for exchange for a Security registered in a name other than that of the Holder, such Security must be accompanied by a certificate in substantially the form set forth in Exhibit B, dated the date of such surrender and signed by the Holder of such Security, as to compliance with such restrictions on transfer. The Registrar shall not be required to accept for such registration of transfer or exchange any Security not so accompanied by a properly completed certificate.

(c) The restrictions imposed by the Legend upon the transferability of any Security shall cease and terminate when such Security has been sold pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act or transferred in compliance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act (or any successor provision thereto) or, if earlier, upon the expiration of the holding period applicable to sales thereof under Rule 144(k) under the Securities Act (or any successor provision). Any Security as to which such restrictions on transfer shall have expired in accordance with their terms or shall have terminated may, upon a surrender of such Security for exchange to the Registrar in accordance with the provisions of this Section 2.12 (accompanied, in the event that such restrictions on transfer have terminated by reason of a transfer in compliance with Rule 144 or any successor provision, by an Opinion of Counsel having

substantial experience in practice under the Securities Act and otherwise reasonably acceptable to the Company and the Registrar, addressed to the Company and in form acceptable to the Company, to the effect that the transfer of such Security has been made in compliance with Rule 144 or such successor provision), be exchanged for a new Security, of like tenor and aggregate principal amount, which shall not bear the restrictive Legend. The Company shall inform the Trustee of the effective date of any registration statement registering the Securities under the Securities Act. The Trustee shall not be liable for any action taken or omitted to be taken by it in good faith in accordance with the aforementioned Opinion of Counsel or registration statement.

(d) As used in the preceding clause (b) and (c) of this Section 2.12, the term “transfer” encompasses any sale, pledge, transfer, hypothecation or other disposition of any Security.

(e) The provisions of clauses (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) below shall apply only to Global Securities:

(i) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Indenture or the Securities, a Global Security shall not be exchanged in whole or in part for a Security registered in the name of any Person other than the Depository or one or more nominees thereof; provided that a Global Security may be exchanged for Securities registered in the names of any Person designated by the Depository in the event that (x) the Depository has notified the Company that it is unwilling or unable to continue as Depository for such Global Security or such Depository has ceased to be a “clearing agency” registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor Depository is not appointed by the Company within 90 days, (y) the Company has provided the Depository with written notice that it has decided to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfer through the Depository or any successor Depository or (z) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Securities. Any Global Security exchanged pursuant to clauses (x) or (y) above shall be so exchanged in whole and not in part, and any Global Security exchanged pursuant to clause (z) above may be exchanged in whole or from time to time in part as directed by the Depository. Any Security issued in exchange for a Global Security or any portion thereof shall be a Global Security; provided that any such Security so issued that is registered in the name of a Person other than the Depository or a nominee thereof shall not be a Global Security.

(ii) Securities issued in exchange for a Global Security or any portion thereof shall be issued in definitive, fully registered form, without interest coupons, shall have an aggregate principal amount equal to that of such Global Security or portion thereof to be so exchanged, shall be registered in such names and be in such authorized denominations as the Depository shall designate and shall bear the applicable legends provided for herein. Any Global Security to be exchanged in whole shall be surrendered by the Depository to the Trustee, as Registrar. With regard to any Global Security to be exchanged in part, either such Global Security shall be so surrendered for exchange or, if the Trustee is acting as

custodian for the Depositary or its nominee with respect to such Global Security, the principal amount thereof shall be reduced, by an amount equal to the portion thereof to be so exchanged, by means of an appropriate adjustment made on the records of the Trustee. Upon any such surrender or adjustment, the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver the Security issuable on such exchange to or upon the order of the Depositary or an authorized representative thereof.

(iii) Subject to the provisions of clause (v) below, the registered Holder may grant proxies and otherwise authorize any Person, including Agent Members (as defined below) and Persons that may hold interests through Agent Members, to take any action which a holder is entitled to take under this Indenture or the Securities.

(iv) In the event of the occurrence of any of the events specified in clause (i) above, the Company will promptly make available to the Trustee a reasonable supply of Certificated Securities in definitive, fully registered form, without interest coupons.

(v) Neither any members of, or participants in, the Depositary (collectively, the “Agent Members”) nor any other Persons on whose behalf Agent Members may act shall have any rights under this Indenture with respect to any Global Security registered in the name of the Depositary or any nominee thereof, or under any such Global Security, and the Depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, may be treated by the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee as the absolute owner and holder of such Global Security for all purposes whatsoever. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall prevent the Company, the Trustee or any agent of the Company or the Trustee from giving effect to any written certification, proxy or other authorization furnished by the Depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, or impair, as between the Depositary, its Agent Members and any other Person on whose behalf an Agent Member may act, the operation of customary practices of such Persons governing the exercise of the rights of a holder of any Security.

(vi) With respect to any Global Security, the Company, the Registrar and the Trustee shall be entitled to treat the Person in whose name such Global Security is registered as the absolute owner of such Security for all purposes of this Indenture, and neither the Company, the Registrar nor the Trustee shall have any responsibility or obligation to any Agent Members or other beneficial owners of the Securities represented by such Global Security. Without limiting the immediately preceding sentence, neither the Company, the Registrar nor the Trustee shall have any responsibility or obligation with respect to (a) the accuracy of the records of any Depositary or any other Person with respect to any ownership interest in any Global Security, (b) the delivery to any Person, other than a Holder, of any notice with respect to the Securities represented by a Global Security, including any notice of redemption or refunding, (c) the selection of the particular Securities or portions thereof to be redeemed or refunded in the event of

a partial redemption or refunding of part of the Securities Outstanding or (d) the payment to any Person, other than a Holder, of any amount with respect to the principal of, redemption premium, if any, purchase price or interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages) with respect to any Global Security.

Section 2.13. CUSIP Numbers. The Company may issue the Securities with one or more “CUSIP” numbers (if then generally in use), and, if so, the Trustee shall use “CUSIP” numbers in notices of redemption as a convenience to Holders; provided that any such notice may state that no representation is made as to the correctness of such numbers either as printed on the Securities or as contained in any notice of a redemption and that reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers printed on the Securities, and any such redemption shall not be affected by any defect in or omission of such numbers. The Company will promptly notify the Trustee of any change in the CUSIP numbers.

ARTICLE 3

REDEMPTION AND PURCHASES

Section 3.01. Right To Redeem; Notices To Trustee.

(a) Optional Redemption. The Company, at its option, may redeem the Securities in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Securities and at the Redemption Price specified in paragraph 5 of the Securities, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon up to but not including the Redemption Date; provided that if the Redemption Date is on or after an interest record date, but on or prior to the related interest payment date, interest will be payable to the Holders in whose names the Securities are registered at the close of business on the relevant record date for payment of such interest.

(b) Notice to Trustee. If the Company elects to redeem Securities pursuant to this Section 3.01, it shall notify the Trustee in writing of the Redemption Date, the principal amount of Securities to be redeemed and the Redemption Price. The Company shall give the notice to the Trustee provided for in this Section 3.01(b) by a Company Order at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the Redemption Date (unless a shorter notice shall be satisfactory to the Trustee).

Section 3.02. Selection of Securities to Be Redeemed. If less than all the Securities are to be redeemed, subject to the procedures of the Depositary in the case of Global Securities to be so redeemed, the Trustee shall select the Securities to be redeemed by any method that the Trustee deems fair and appropriate. The Trustee may select for redemption portions of the principal amount of Securities that have denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof.

Provisions of this Indenture that apply to Securities called for redemption also apply to portions of Securities called for redemption. The Trustee shall notify the Company promptly of the Securities or portions of Securities to be redeemed.

If any Security selected for partial redemption is converted in part before termination of the conversion right with respect to the portion of the Security so selected, the converted portion of such Security shall be deemed (so far as possible) to be the portion selected for redemption. Securities that have been converted during a selection of Securities to be redeemed may be treated by the Trustee as outstanding for the purpose of such selection.

Section 3.03. Notice of Redemption. At least 30 days but not more than 60 days before a Redemption Date, the Company shall mail a notice of redemption by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to each Holder of Securities to be redeemed.

The notice shall identify the Securities to be redeemed and shall state:

- (a) the Redemption Date;
- (b) the Redemption Price and, to the extent known at the time of such notice the amount of interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), payable on the Redemption Date;
- (c) the current Conversion Price;
- (d) the name and address of the Paying Agent and Conversion Agent;
- (e) that Securities called for redemption may be converted at any time before the close of business on the second Business Day immediately preceding the Redemption Date;
- (f) that Holders who want to convert Securities must satisfy the requirements set forth in paragraph 8 of the Securities;
- (g) that Securities called for redemption must be surrendered to the Paying Agent to collect the Redemption Price therefor, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any);
- (h) if fewer than all the outstanding Securities are to be redeemed, the certificate numbers, if any, and principal amounts of the particular Securities to be redeemed;
- (i) that, unless the Company defaults in making such payment, interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), on Securities called for redemption will cease to accrue on and after the Redemption Date and the Securities will cease to be convertible; and
- (j) the CUSIP number of the Securities.

At the Company's request, the Trustee shall give the notice of redemption in the Company's name and at the Company's expense; provided that the Company makes such request prior to the date by which such notice of redemption must be given to Holders in accordance with this Section 3.03 and the Company provides the Trustee with all information required for such notice of redemption.

Section 3.04. Effect of Notice of Redemption. Once notice of redemption is given, Securities called for redemption become due and payable on the Redemption Date and at the Redemption Price together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon stated in the notice, except for Securities which are converted in accordance with the terms of this Indenture. Upon surrender to the Paying Agent, such Securities shall be paid at the Redemption Price stated in the notice, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, up to but not including the Redemption Date.

Section 3.05. Deposit of Redemption Price. Prior to 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the Redemption Date, the Company shall deposit with the Paying Agent (or if the Company or a Subsidiary or an Affiliate of either of them is the Paying Agent, shall segregate and hold in trust) money sufficient to pay the aggregate Redemption Price of all Securities to be redeemed on that date, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, up to but not including the Redemption Date other than Securities or portions of Securities called for redemption that on or prior thereto have been delivered by the Company to the Trustee for cancellation or have been converted. The Paying Agent shall as promptly as practicable return to the Company any money not required for that purpose because of conversion of Securities pursuant to Article 10. If such money is then held by the Company in trust and is not required for such purpose it shall be discharged from such trust.

Section 3.06. Securities Redeemed in Part. Upon surrender of a Security that is redeemed in part, the Company shall execute and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver to the Holder, without service charge, a new Security or Securities, of any authorized denomination as requested by such Holder in aggregate principal amount equal to, and in exchange for, the unredeemed portion of the principal amount of the Security surrendered.

Section 3.07. Sinking Fund. There shall be no sinking fund provided for the Securities.

Section 3.08. Purchase of Securities at Option of the Holder.

(a) General. Securities shall be purchased by the Company in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of the Securities on July 18, 2010, July 18, 2013 and July 18, 2018 (each, a "Purchase Date") at a purchase price in cash per Security equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount of the Security (the "Purchase Price"), together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, up to but not including the Purchase Date.

Purchases of Securities hereunder shall be made, at the option of the Holder thereof, upon:

(i) delivery to the Company and the Paying Agent by the Holder of a written notice of purchase (a "Purchase Notice") at any time from the opening of business on the date that is 30 Business Days prior to the Purchase Date until the close of business on the Business Day prior to such Purchase Date stating:

- (A) the certificate number of the Security which the Holder will deliver to be purchased;
- (B) the portion of the principal amount of the Security which the Holder will deliver to be purchased, which portion must be in principal amounts of \$1,000 or an integral multiple thereof; and
- (C) that such Security shall be purchased as of the Purchase Date pursuant to the terms and conditions specified in paragraph 6 of the Securities and in this Indenture.

(ii) delivery or book-entry transfer of such Security to the Paying Agent prior to, on or after the Purchase Date (together with all necessary endorsements) at the offices of the Paying Agent, such delivery being a condition to receipt by the Holder of the Purchase Price therefor, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any); provided, however, that such Purchase Price, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), shall be so paid pursuant to this Section 3.08 only if the Security so delivered to the Paying Agent shall conform in all respects to the description thereof in the related Purchase Notice, as determined by the Company in its sole discretion.

The Company shall purchase from the Holder thereof, pursuant to this Section 3.08, a portion of a Security if the principal amount of such portion is \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000. Provisions of this Indenture that apply to the purchase of all of a Security also apply to the purchase of such portion of such Security.

Any purchase by the Company contemplated pursuant to the provisions of this Section 3.08 shall be consummated by the delivery of the consideration to be received by the Holder promptly following the later of the Purchase Date and the time of delivery or book-entry transfer of the Security.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, any Holder delivering to the Paying Agent the Purchase Notice contemplated by this Section 3.08(a) shall have the right to withdraw such Purchase Notice at any time prior to the close of business on the Purchase Date by delivery of a written notice of withdrawal to the Paying Agent at the principal office of the Paying Agent in accordance with Section 3.10.

The Paying Agent shall promptly notify the Company of the receipt by it of any Purchase Notice or written notice of withdrawal thereof.

(b) Company Notice. In connection with any purchase of Securities pursuant to Section 3.08 or 3.09, the Company shall give written notice of the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as applicable, to the Holders (the "Company Notice"). The Company Notice shall be sent by first-class mail to the Trustee and to each Holder not less than 30 Business Days prior to any Purchase Date (the "Company Notice Date") or not more than 30

days after the occurrence of a Change in Control, as the case may be. Each Company Notice shall include a form of Purchase Notice to be completed by a Holder and shall state:

- (i) the Purchase Price, Change in Control Purchase Price, Conversion Price and, to the extent known at the time of such notice, the amount of Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any, that will be payable with respect to the Securities on the Purchase Date;
- (ii) the name and address of the Paying Agent and the Conversion Agent;
- (iii) that Securities as to which a Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice has been given may be converted only if the applicable Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice has been withdrawn in accordance with the terms of this Indenture;
- (iv) that Securities must be surrendered to the Paying Agent to collect payment of the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price and accrued but unpaid interest and Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any;
- (v) that the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price for any Securities as to which a Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice has been given and not withdrawn, together with any accrued Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages payable with respect thereto, shall be paid promptly following the later of the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date and the time of surrender of such Securities as described in (iv);
- (vi) the procedures the Holder must follow under Section 3.08 or Section 3.09, as the case may be;
- (vii) briefly, the conversion rights of the Securities;
- (viii) that, unless the Company defaults in making payment of such Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), on Securities covered by any Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice will cease to accrue on and after the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date;
- (ix) the CUSIP or ISIN number of the Securities; and
- (x) the procedures for withdrawing a Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice (as specified in Section 3.10).

At the Company's request and at the Company's expense, the Trustee shall give the Company Notice in the Company's name; provided, however, that, in all cases, the text of the Company Notice shall be prepared by the Company.

Section 3.09. Purchase of Securities at Option of the Holder upon Change in Control.

(a) If at any time that Securities remain outstanding there shall have occurred a Change in Control, Securities shall be repurchased by the Company, at the option of the Holder thereof, at a purchase price in cash (the “Change in Control Purchase Price”) equal to the principal amount plus accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, up to but not including the date (the “Change in Control Purchase Date”) fixed by the Company that is not less than 30 days nor more than 45 days after the date the Company Notice is given, subject to satisfaction by or on behalf of the Holder of the requirements set forth in Section 3.09(c); provided that if the Change in Control Purchase Date is on or after an interest record date but on or prior to the related interest payment date, interest and Liquidated Damages, if any, will be payable to the Holders in whose names the Securities are registered at the close of business on the relevant record date.

(b) The Company, or at its request (which must be received by the Trustee at least three Business Days (or such lesser period as agreed to by the Trustee) prior to the date the Trustee is requested to give such notice as described below) the Trustee in the name of and at the expense of the Company, shall mail to all Holders of record of the Securities a notice (a “Company Change in Control Notice”) of the occurrence of a Change in Control and of the repurchase right arising as a result thereof, including the information required by Section 3.08(b) hereof, not more than 30 days after the occurrence of such Change in Control. The Company shall promptly furnish to the Trustee a copy of such notice.

(c) For a Security to be so repurchased at the option of the Holder, the Paying Agent must receive such Security with the form entitled “Option to Elect Repurchase Upon a Change in Control” (a “Change in Control Purchase Notice”) on the reverse thereof duly completed, together with such Security duly endorsed for transfer, on or before the Change in Control Purchase Date. All questions as to the validity, eligibility (including time of receipt) and acceptance of any Security for redemption shall be determined by the Company, whose determination shall be final and binding.

The Company shall purchase from the Holder thereof, pursuant to this Section 3.09, a portion of a Security if the principal amount of such portion is \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000. Provisions of this Indenture that apply to the purchase of all of a Security also apply to the purchase of such portion of such Security.

Any purchase by the Company contemplated pursuant to the provisions of this Section 3.09 shall be consummated by the delivery of the consideration to be received by the Holder promptly following the later of the Change in Control Purchase Date and the time of delivery of the Security to the Paying Agent in accordance with this Section 3.09.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, any Holder delivering to the Paying Agent the Change in Control Purchase Notice contemplated by this Section 3.09(c) shall have the right to withdraw such Change in Control Purchase Notice at any time prior to the close of business on the Change in Control Purchase Date by delivery of a written notice of withdrawal to the Paying Agent in accordance with Section 3.10.

The Paying Agent shall promptly notify the Company of the receipt by it of any Change in Control Purchase Notice or written withdrawal thereof.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Company's obligations pursuant to this Section 3.09 shall be satisfied if a third party makes an offer to repurchase outstanding Securities after a Change in Control in the manner and at the times and otherwise in compliance in all material respects with the requirements of this Section 3.09 and purchases all Securities properly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to the requirements of this Section 3.09.

Section 3.10. Effect of Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice. Upon receipt by the Paying Agent of the Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice specified in Section 3.08 or Section 3.09(c), as applicable, the Holder of the Security in respect of which such Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, was given shall (unless such Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice is withdrawn as specified in the following two paragraphs) thereafter be entitled to receive solely the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, to but not including the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, with respect to such Security. Such Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, to but not including the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, shall be paid to such Holder, subject to receipt of funds by the Paying Agent, promptly following the later of (x) the Purchase Date or the Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, with respect to such Security (provided that the conditions in Section 3.08 or Section 3.09, as applicable, have been satisfied) and (y) the time of delivery or book-entry transfer of such Security to the Paying Agent by the Holder thereof in the manner required by Section 3.08 or Section 3.09(c), as applicable. Securities in respect of which a Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, has been given by the Holder thereof may not be converted pursuant to Article 10 hereof on or after the date of the delivery of such Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, unless such Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, has first been validly withdrawn as specified in the following two paragraphs.

A Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, may be withdrawn by means of a written notice of withdrawal delivered to the office of the Paying Agent in accordance with the Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, at any time prior to the close of business on the Purchase Date or prior to the close of business on the Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, specifying:

- (i) the certificate number, if any, of the Security in respect of which such notice of withdrawal is being submitted;
- (ii) the principal amount of the Security with respect to which such notice of withdrawal is being submitted; and
- (iii) the principal amount, if any, of such Security which remains subject to the original Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, and which has been or will be delivered for purchase by the Company.

There shall be no purchase of any Securities pursuant to Section 3.08 or Section 3.09 or redemption pursuant to Section 3.01 if there has occurred prior to, on or after, as the case may be, the giving, by the Holders of such Securities, of the required Purchase Notice (or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be) and is continuing an Event of Default (other than a default in the payment of the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, as the case may be). The Paying Agent will promptly return to the respective Holders thereof any Securities (x) with respect to which a Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, has been withdrawn in compliance with this Indenture, or (y) held by it during the continuance of an Event of Default (other than a default in the payment of the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, as the case may be) in which case, upon such return, the Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice with respect thereto shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

Section 3.11. Deposit of Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price. Prior to 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the Business Day prior to the Purchase Date or the Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, the Company shall deposit with the Trustee or with the Paying Agent (or, if the Company or a Subsidiary or an Affiliate of either of them is acting as the Paying Agent, shall segregate and hold in trust as provided in Section 2.04) an amount of money (in immediately available funds if deposited on such Business Day) sufficient to pay the aggregate Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, as the case may be, together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) thereon, to but not including the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, of all the Securities or portions thereof which are to be purchased as of the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be.

Section 3.12. Securities Purchased in Part. Any Certificated Security that is to be purchased only in part shall be surrendered at the office of the Paying Agent (with, if the Company or the Trustee so requires, due endorsement by, or a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company and the Trustee duly executed by, the Holder thereof or such Holder's attorney duly authorized in writing) and the Company shall execute and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver to the Holder of such Security, without service charge, a new Security or Securities, of any authorized denomination as requested by such Holder in aggregate principal amount equal to, and in exchange for, the portion of the principal amount of the Security so surrendered which is not purchased.

Section 3.13. Covenant to Comply with Securities Laws upon Purchase of Securities. When complying with the provisions of Sections 3.08 or 3.09 hereof (provided that such offer or purchase constitutes an "issuer tender offer" for purposes of Rule 13e-4 (which term, as used herein, includes any successor provision thereto) under the Exchange Act at the time of such offer or purchase), the Company shall (i) comply in all material respects with Rule 13e-4 and Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act, (ii) file the related Schedule TO (or any successor schedule, form or report) under the Exchange Act, and (iii) otherwise comply in all material respects with all Federal and state securities laws so as to permit the rights and obligations under Sections 3.08 or 3.09 to be exercised in the time and in the manner specified in Sections 3.08 or 3.09.

Section 3.14. Repayment to the Company. The Trustee and the Paying Agent shall return to the Company any cash that remains unclaimed as provided in paragraph 11 of the Securities, together with interest or dividends, if any, thereon (subject to the provisions of Section 7.01(f)), held by them for the payment of the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, as the case may be, and accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any); provided, however, that to the extent that the aggregate amount of cash deposited by the Company pursuant to Section 3.11 exceeds the aggregate Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, as the case may be, of the Securities or portions thereof which the Company is obligated to purchase as of the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, and accrued but unpaid interest thereon (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), then, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Company, promptly after the Business Day following the Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, the Trustee shall return any such excess to the Company together with interest or dividends, if any, thereon (subject to the provisions of Section 7.01(f)).

ARTICLE 4

COVENANTS

Section 4.01. Payment of Securities. The Company shall promptly make all payments in respect of the Securities on the dates and in the manner provided in the Securities or pursuant to this Indenture. Any amounts to be given to the Trustee or Paying Agent, as the case may be, shall be deposited with the Trustee or Paying Agent, as the case may be, by 11:00 a.m. (New York City time), on the dates required pursuant to Section 2.04 hereof. Interest installments, Liquidated Damages, principal amount, Redemption Price, Purchase Price, Change in Control Purchase Price and interest, if any, due on overdue amounts shall be considered paid on the applicable date due if at 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on such date (or, in the case of a Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, on the Business Day prior to the applicable Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be) the Trustee or the Paying Agent, as the case may be, holds, in accordance with this Indenture, money sufficient to pay all such amounts then due.

The Company shall, to the extent permitted by law, pay interest on overdue amounts at the rate per annum set forth in paragraph 1 of the Securities, compounded semiannually, which interest shall accrue from the date such overdue amount was originally due to the date payment of such amount, including interest thereon, has been made or duly provided for. All such interest shall be payable on demand. The accrual of such interest on overdue amounts shall be in addition to the continued accrual of interest on the Securities.

Section 4.02. SEC and Other Reports. The Company shall file with the Trustee, within 15 days after it files such annual and quarterly reports, information, documents and other reports with the SEC, copies of its annual report and of the information, documents and other reports (or copies of such portions of any of the foregoing as the SEC may by rules and regulations prescribe) which the Company is required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. In the event the Company is at any time no longer subject to the

reporting requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, it shall continue to provide the Trustee with reports containing substantially the same information as would have been required to be filed with the SEC had the Company continued to have been subject to such reporting requirements. In such event, such reports shall be provided to the Trustee at the times the Company would have been required to provide reports had it continued to have been subject to such reporting requirements. In addition, the Company shall comply with the other provisions of TIA Section 314(a).

Section 4.03. Compliance Certificate. The Company shall deliver to the Trustee within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year of the Company (beginning with the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2004) an Officers' Certificate, stating whether or not to the best knowledge of the signers thereof the Company is in default in the performance and observance of any of the terms, provisions and conditions of this Indenture (without regard to any period of grace or requirement of notice provided hereunder) and if the Company shall be in default, specifying all such Defaults and the nature and status thereof of which they may have knowledge.

Section 4.04. Further Instruments and Acts. Upon request of the Trustee, the Company will execute and deliver such further instruments and do such further acts as may be reasonably necessary or proper to carry out more effectively the purposes of this Indenture.

Section 4.05. Maintenance of Office or Agency. The Company will maintain in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, an office or agency of the Trustee, Registrar, Paying Agent and Conversion Agent where Securities may be presented or surrendered for payment, where Securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer, exchange, purchase, redemption or conversion and where notices and demands to or upon the Company in respect of the Securities and this Indenture may be served. The Trustee's office located at American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 59 Maiden Lane, New York, New York, 10038 shall initially be such office or agency for all of the aforesaid purposes. The Company shall give prompt written notice to the Trustee of the location, and of any change in the location, of any such office or agency (other than a change in the location of the office or agency of the Trustee). If at any time the Company shall fail to maintain any such required office or agency or shall fail to furnish the Trustee with the address thereof, such presentations, surrenders, notices and demands may be made or served at the address of the Trustee set forth in Section 12.02. The Company may also from time to time designate one or more other offices or agencies where the Securities may be presented or surrendered for any or all such purposes and may from time to time rescind such designations; provided, however, that no such designation or rescission shall in any manner relieve the Company of its obligation to maintain an office or agency in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York, for such purposes.

Section 4.06. Delivery of Certain Information. At any time when the Company is not subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, upon the request of a Holder or any Beneficial Owner of Securities or holder or Beneficial Owner of Common Stock delivered upon conversion thereof, the Company will promptly furnish or cause to be furnished Rule 144A Information (as defined below) to such Holder or any Beneficial Owner of Securities or holder or Beneficial Owner of Common Stock, or to a prospective purchaser of any such security

designated by any such holder, as the case may be, to the extent required to permit compliance by such Holder or holder with Rule 144A under the Securities Act in connection with the resale of any such security. “Rule 144A Information” shall be such information as is specified pursuant to Rule 144A(d)(4) under the Securities Act or any successor provisions. Whether a Person is a Beneficial Owner shall be determined by the Company to the Company’s reasonable satisfaction.

Section 4.07. Tax Treatment of Securities. The Company and the Holders, by purchasing the Securities, agree that (i) the Securities are contingent payment debt instruments as defined in Treasury Regulations Section 1.1275-4(b), (ii) each Holder shall be bound by the Company’s application of the Treasury Regulations to the Securities, including the Company’s determination that the rate at which interest will be deemed to accrue on the Securities for United States federal income tax purposes will be 8.50% compounded semi-annually, which is the rate comparable to the rate at which the Company would borrow on a noncontingent, nonconvertible basis with terms and conditions otherwise comparable to the Securities, (iii) each Holder shall use the projected payment schedule with respect to the Securities determined by the Company, as required by Treasury Regulations Section 1.1275-4(b)(4) (iv), to determine its interest accruals and adjustments as provided in Treasury Regulations Section 1.1275-4(b), and (iv) the Company and each Holder will not take any position on a tax return inconsistent with (i), (ii), or (iii), unless required by applicable law.

Section 4.08. Liquidated Damages. If at any time Liquidated Damages become payable by the Company pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, the Company shall promptly deliver to the Trustee a certificate to that effect and stating (i) the amount of such Liquidated Damages that are payable and (ii) the date on which such damages are payable pursuant to the terms of the Registration Rights Agreement. Unless and until a Responsible Officer of the Trustee receives such a certificate, the Trustee may assume without inquiry that no Liquidated Damages are payable. If the Company has paid Liquidated Damages directly to the Persons entitled to them, the Company shall deliver to the Trustee a certificate setting forth the particulars of such payment.

ARTICLE 5

SUCCESSOR CORPORATION

Section 5.01. When the Company May Merge or Transfer Assets. The Company shall not consolidate with or merge with or into any other Person or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any Person, unless:

- (i) (1) the Company shall be the continuing corporation or (2) the Person (if other than the Company) formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or the Person which acquires by conveyance, transfer or lease the properties and assets of the Company substantially as an entirety (a) shall be a corporation or limited liability company organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States or any State thereof or the District of Columbia, and (b) shall expressly assume, by an indenture supplemental hereto,

executed and delivered to the Trustee, in form satisfactory to the Trustee, all of the obligations of the Company under the Securities and this Indenture;

(ii) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Default shall have occurred and be continuing; and

(iii) the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, each stating that such consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer or lease and, if a supplemental indenture is required in connection with such transaction, such supplemental indenture, comply with this Article 5 and that all conditions precedent herein provided for relating to such transaction have been satisfied.

For purposes of the foregoing, the transfer (by lease, assignment, sale or otherwise) of the properties and assets of one or more Subsidiaries (other than to the Company or another Subsidiary), which, if such assets were owned by the Company would constitute all or substantially all of the properties and assets of the Company shall be deemed to be the transfer of all or substantially all of the properties and assets of the Company. The successor Person formed by such consolidation or into which the Company is merged or the successor Person to which such conveyance, transfer or lease is made shall succeed to, and (except in the case of a lease) be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, the Company under this Indenture with the same effect as if such successor had been named as the Company herein; and thereafter, except in the case of a lease and except for obligations the Company may have under a supplemental indenture pursuant to Section 9.06, the Company shall be discharged from all obligations and covenants under this Indenture and the Securities. Subject to Section 9.06, the Company, the Trustee and the successor Person shall enter into a supplemental indenture to evidence the succession and substitution of such successor Person and such discharge and release of the Company, as applicable.

ARTICLE 6

DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES

Section 6.01. Events of Default. Subject to the provisions set forth below in this Section 6.01, each of the following events is an "Event of Default":

(a) the failure to pay interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) on any Securities when the same becomes due and payable and the default continues for a period of 30 days, whether or not such failure shall be due to compliance with Article 11 of this Indenture or agreements with respect to any other Indebtedness or any other reason;

(b) the failure to pay the principal of any Securities, when such principal becomes due and payable, at maturity, upon acceleration, upon redemption or otherwise (including the failure to make an offer to repurchase the Securities upon a Change in

Control or make a payment to purchase Securities tendered pursuant to a Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice), whether or not such failure shall be due to compliance with Article 11 of this Indenture or agreements with respect to any other Indebtedness or any other reason;

- (c) the failure to provide a Company Change in Control Notice in accordance with the terms of Section 3.09(b) hereof;
- (d) a default in the observance or performance of any other covenant or agreement contained in this Indenture which default continues for a period of 30 days after the Company receives written notice specifying the default (and demanding that such default be remedied) from the Trustee or the Holders of at least 25% of the outstanding principal amount of the Securities (except in the case of a default with respect to Section 5.01, which will constitute an Event of Default with such notice requirement but without such passage of time requirement);
- (e) the failure to pay at final maturity (giving effect to any applicable grace periods and any extensions thereof) the principal amount of any Recourse Indebtedness of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company, or the acceleration of the final stated maturity of any such Recourse Indebtedness if the aggregate principal amount of such Recourse Indebtedness, together with the principal amount of any other such Recourse Indebtedness in default for failure to pay principal at final maturity or which has been accelerated, aggregates \$25.0 million or more at any time;
- (f) one or more judgments in an aggregate amount in excess of \$25.0 million shall have been rendered against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries and remain undischarged, unpaid or unstayed for a period of 60 days after such judgment or judgments become final and nonappealable;
- (g) The Company or any of its Significant Subsidiaries pursuant to or under or within the meaning of any Bankruptcy Law:
 - (i) commences a voluntary case or proceeding;
 - (ii) consents to the entry of an order for relief against it in an involuntary case or proceeding;
 - (iii) consents to the appointment of a custodian of it or for all or substantially all of its property;
 - (iv) makes a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors; or
 - (v) shall generally not pay its debts when such debts become due or shall admit in writing its inability to pay its debts generally; or
- (h) a court of competent jurisdiction enters an order or decree under any Bankruptcy Law that:
 - (i) is for relief against the Company or any Significant Subsidiary of the Company in an involuntary case or proceeding;

(ii) appoints a custodian of the Company or any Significant Subsidiary of the Company for all or substantially all of its properties; or

(iii) orders the liquidation of the Company or any Significant Subsidiary of Company;

and in each case the order or decree remains unstayed and in effect for 60 consecutive days.

The Events of Default described in clauses (e), (f), (g) and (h) above with respect to a Subsidiary shall not apply if such Person was not a Subsidiary at the time such event or condition occurred unless, in the case of clause (e) or (f) above, the Company or another Subsidiary thereof assumes or otherwise becomes liable for the liability referred to therein or the liabilities generally of such Person.

Section 6.02. Acceleration.

(a) If an Event of Default (other than an Event of Default specified in clause (g) or (h) of Section 6.01) shall occur and be continuing, the Trustee may, and at the request of the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of outstanding Securities shall, declare the principal of and accrued interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), on all the Securities to be due and payable by notice in writing to the Company (the "Acceleration Notice"). Such notice shall specify the respective Event of Default and that it is a "notice of acceleration." Upon the giving of such notice, the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) on all Securities (i) shall become immediately due and payable or (ii) if there are any amounts outstanding under the Credit Agreement, shall become immediately due and payable upon the first to occur of an acceleration under the Credit Agreement or five Business Days after receipt by the Company and the Representative under the Credit Agreement of such Acceleration Notice but only if such Event of Default is then continuing. If an Event of Default specified in clause (g) or (h) of Section 6.01 occurs and is continuing with respect to Company, then all unpaid Obligations on all of the outstanding Securities shall *ipso facto* become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the Trustee or any Holder.

(b) At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Securities as described in the preceding paragraph, the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities may rescind and cancel such declaration and its consequences (i) if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree, (ii) if all existing Events of Default have been cured or waived except nonpayment of principal or interest that has become due solely because of such acceleration, (iii) if interest on overdue installments of interest (to the extent the payment of such interest is lawful) and on overdue principal, which has become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration, has been paid, (iv) if the Company has paid the Trustee its reasonable compensation and reimbursed the Trustee for its expenses, disbursements and advances and (v) in the event of the cure or waiver of an Event of Default of the type described in clause (e) of Section 6.01, the Trustee shall have received an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel that such Event of Default has been cured or waived. No such rescission shall affect any subsequent Default or impair any right consequent thereto.

Section 6.03. Other Remedies. If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee may pursue any available remedy to collect the payment of the principal amount of all the Securities plus accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, or to enforce the performance of any provision of the Securities or this Indenture.

The Trustee may maintain a proceeding even if the Trustee does not possess any of the Securities or does not produce any of the Securities in the proceeding. A delay or omission by the Trustee or any Securityholder in exercising any right or remedy accruing upon an Event of Default shall not impair the right or remedy or constitute a waiver of, or acquiescence in, the Event of Default. No remedy is exclusive of any other remedy. All available remedies are cumulative to the extent permitted by law.

Section 6.04. Waiver of Past Defaults. The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding, by notice in writing to the Trustee (and without notice to any other Securityholder), may waive an existing Default and its consequences, except (i) an Event of Default described in Section 6.01(a) or 6.01(b), (ii) a Default in respect of a provision that under Section 9.02 cannot be amended without the consent of each Holder affected or (iii) a Default which constitutes a failure to convert any Security in accordance with the terms of Article 10. When a Default is waived, it is deemed cured, but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other Default or impair any consequent right. This Section 6.04 shall be in lieu of Section 316(a)(1)(B) of the TIA and such Section 316(a)(1)(B) is hereby expressly excluded from this Indenture, as permitted by the TIA.

Section 6.05. Control by Majority. The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee. However, the Trustee may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or this Indenture or that the Trustee determines in good faith is unduly prejudicial to the rights of other Holders or would involve the Trustee in personal liability unless the Trustee is offered indemnity satisfactory to it. This Section 6.05 shall be in lieu of Section 316(a)(1)(A) of the TIA and such Section 316(a)(1)(A) is hereby expressly excluded from this Indenture, as permitted by the TIA.

Section 6.06. Limitation on Suits. A Holder may not pursue any remedy with respect to this Indenture or the Securities unless:

- (a) the Holder gives to the Trustee written notice stating that an Event of Default is continuing;
- (b) the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding make a written request to the Trustee to pursue the remedy;
- (c) such Holder or Holders offer to the Trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to the Trustee against any loss, liability or expense;

(d) the Trustee does not comply with the request within 60 days after receipt of such notice, request and offer of security or indemnity;
and

(e) the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding do not give the Trustee a direction inconsistent with the request during such 60-day period.

A Securityholder may not use this Indenture to prejudice the rights of any other Securityholder or to obtain a preference or priority over any other Securityholder.

Section 6.07. Rights of Holders to Receive Payment. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Indenture, the right of any Holder to receive payment of interest installments (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), the principal amount, Redemption Price, Purchase Price, Change in Control Purchase Price or interest, if any, due on overdue amounts in respect of the Securities held by such Holder, on or after the respective due dates expressed in the Securities, and to convert the Securities in accordance with Article 10, or to bring suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after such respective dates or the right to convert, shall not be impaired or affected adversely without the consent of such Holder.

Section 6.08. Collection Suit by Trustee. If an Event of Default described in Section 6.01(a) or 6.01(b) occurs and is continuing, the Trustee may recover judgment in its own name and as trustee of an express trust against the Company for the whole amount owing with respect to the Securities and the amounts provided for in Section 7.07.

Section 6.09. Trustee May File Proofs of Claim. In case of the pendency of any receivership, insolvency, liquidation, bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, composition or other judicial proceeding relative to the Company or any other obligor upon the Securities or the property of the Company or of such other obligor or their creditors, the Trustee (irrespective of whether any amounts in respect of the Securities shall then be due and payable as therein expressed or by declaration or otherwise and irrespective of whether the Trustee shall have made any demand on the Company for the payment of any such amount) shall be entitled and empowered, by intervention in such proceeding or otherwise,

(a) to file and prove a claim for any accrued but unpaid amounts due in respect of the Securities, and to file such other papers or documents as may be necessary or advisable in order to have the claims of the Trustee (including any claim for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel or any other amounts due the Trustee under Section 7.07) and of the Holders allowed in such judicial proceeding, and

(b) to collect and receive any moneys or other property payable or deliverable on any such claims and to distribute the same;

and any custodian, receiver, assignee, trustee, liquidator, sequestrator or similar official in any such judicial proceeding is hereby authorized by each Holder to make such payments to the Trustee and, in the event that the Trustee shall consent to the making of such payments directly to the Holders, to pay the Trustee any amount due it for the reasonable compensation, expenses,

disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel, and any other amounts due the Trustee under Section 7.07.

Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize the Trustee to authorize or consent to or accept or adopt on behalf of any Holder any plan of reorganization, arrangement, adjustment or composition affecting the Securities or the rights of any Holder thereof, or to authorize the Trustee to vote in respect of the claim of any Holder in any such proceeding.

Section 6.10. Priorities. If the Trustee collects any money pursuant to this Article 6, it shall pay out the money in the following order:

FIRST: to the Trustee for amounts due under Section 7.07;

SECOND: to Holders for amounts due and unpaid on the Securities and for any accrued but unpaid interest amounts due in respect of the Securities, ratably, without preference or priority of any kind, according to such amounts due and payable on the Securities; and

THIRD: the balance, if any, to the Company.

The Trustee may fix a record date and payment date for any payment to Holders pursuant to this Section 6.10. At least 15 days before such record date, the Trustee shall mail to each Securityholder and the Company a notice that states the record date, the payment date and the amount to be paid.

Section 6.11. Suits. In any suit for the enforcement of any right or remedy under this Indenture or in any suit against the Trustee for any action taken or omitted by it as Trustee, a court in its discretion may require the filing by any party litigant (other than the Trustee) in the suit of an undertaking to pay the costs of the suit, and the court in its discretion may assess reasonable costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, against any party litigant in the suit, having due regard to the merits and good faith of the claims or defenses made by the party litigant. This Section 6.11 does not apply to a suit by the Trustee, a suit by a Holder pursuant to Section 6.07 or a suit by Holders of more than 10% in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding. This Section 6.11 shall be in lieu of Section 315(e) of the TIA and such Section 315(e) is hereby expressly excluded from this Indenture, as permitted by the TIA.

Section 6.12. Waiver of Stay, Extension or Usury Laws. The Company covenants (to the fullest extent that it may lawfully do so) that it will not at any time insist upon, or plead, or in any manner whatsoever claim or take the benefit or advantage of, any stay or extension law or any usury or other law wherever enacted, now or at any time hereafter in force, which would prohibit or forgive the Company from paying all or any portion of any amounts due in respect of the Securities, as contemplated herein, or which may affect the covenants or the performance of this Indenture; and the Company (to the fullest extent that it may lawfully do so) hereby expressly waives all benefit or advantage of any such law and covenants that it will not hinder, delay or impede the execution of any power herein granted to the Trustee, but will suffer and permit the execution of every such power as though no such law had been enacted.

ARTICLE 7

TRUSTEE

Section 7.01. Duties of Trustee.

(a) If an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee shall exercise the rights and powers vested in it by this Indenture and use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs.

(b) Except during the continuance of an Event of Default:

(i) the Trustee need perform only those duties that are specifically set forth in this Indenture and no others; and

(ii) in the absence of bad faith on its part, the Trustee may conclusively rely, as to the truth of the statements and the correctness of the opinions expressed therein, upon certificates or opinions furnished to the Trustee and conforming to the requirements of this Indenture, but in case of any such certificates or opinions which by any provision hereof are specifically required to be furnished to the Trustee, the Trustee shall examine the certificates and opinions to determine whether or not they conform to the requirements of this Indenture, but need not confirm or investigate the accuracy of mathematical calculations or other facts stated therein.

This Section 7.01(b) shall be in lieu of Section 315(a) of the TIA and such Section 315(a) is hereby expressly excluded from this Indenture, as permitted by the TIA.

(c) The Trustee may not be relieved from liability for its own negligent action, its own negligent failure to act or its own willful misconduct, except that:

(i) this paragraph (c) does not limit the effect of paragraph (b) of this Section 7.01;

(ii) the Trustee shall not be liable for any error of judgment made in good faith by a Responsible Officer unless it is proved that the Trustee was negligent in ascertaining the pertinent facts; and

(iii) the Trustee shall not be liable with respect to any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in accordance with a direction received by it pursuant to Section 6.05.

Section 7.01(c)(i), (ii) and (iii) shall be in lieu of Sections 315(d)(1), 315(d)(2) and 315(d)(3) of the TIA and such Sections 315(d)(1), 315(d)(2) and 315(d)(3) are hereby expressly excluded from this Indenture, as permitted by the TIA.

(d) Every provision of this Indenture that in any way relates to the Trustee is subject to Section 7.01(a), (b), (c), (e) and (f).

(e) The Trustee may refuse to perform any duty or exercise any right or power or expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability unless it receives indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense.

(f) Money held by the Trustee in trust hereunder need not be segregated from other funds except to the extent required by law. The Trustee (acting in any capacity hereunder) shall be under no liability for interest on any money received by it hereunder unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Company.

Section 7.02. Rights of Trustee. Subject to its duties and responsibilities under the TIA,

(a) the Trustee may conclusively rely and shall be protected in acting or refraining from acting upon any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document reasonably believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties;

(b) whenever in the administration of this Indenture the Trustee shall deem it desirable that a matter be proved or established prior to taking, suffering or omitting any action hereunder, the Trustee (unless other evidence be herein specifically prescribed) may obtain and, in the absence of bad faith or negligence on its part, conclusively rely upon an Officers' Certificate and/or an Opinion of Counsel;

(c) the Trustee may execute any of the trusts or powers hereunder or perform any duties hereunder either directly or by or through agents, attorneys, custodians or nominees and the Trustee shall not be responsible for any misconduct or negligence on the part of any agent, attorney, custodian or nominee appointed with due care by it hereunder;

(d) the Trustee shall not be liable for any action taken, suffered, or omitted to be taken by it in good faith which it reasonably believes to be authorized or within its rights or powers conferred under this Indenture;

(e) the Trustee may consult with counsel selected by it and any advice or opinion of such counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection in respect of any action taken or suffered or omitted by it hereunder in good faith and in accordance with such advice or opinion of such counsel;

(f) the Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by this Indenture at the request, order or direction of any of the Holders, pursuant to the provisions of this Indenture, unless such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities which may be incurred therein or thereby;

(g) any request or direction of the Company mentioned herein shall be sufficiently evidenced by a Company Order and any resolution of the Board of Directors shall be sufficiently evidenced by a Board Resolution;

(h) the Trustee shall not be bound to make any investigation into the facts or matters stated in any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document, but the Trustee, in its discretion, may make such further inquiry or investigation into such facts or matters as it may see fit, and, if the Trustee shall determine to make such further inquiry or investigation, it shall be entitled, during normal business hours, to examine the books, records and premises of the Company, personally or by agent or attorney at the sole cost of the Company and shall incur no liability or additional liability of any kind by reason of such inquiry or investigation;

(i) the Trustee shall not be deemed to have notice of any Default or Event of Default unless a Responsible Officer of the Trustee has actual knowledge thereof or unless written notice of any event which is in fact such a Default is received by the Trustee at the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee, and such notice references the Securities and this Indenture;

(j) the rights, privileges, protections, immunities and benefits given to the Trustee, including its right to be indemnified, are extended to, and shall be enforceable by, the Trustee in each of its capacities hereunder (including Paying Agent, Registrar and Conversion Agent), and to all other Persons employed to act hereunder, including the Trustee's officers, employees, agents and custodians;

(k) the Trustee may request that the Company deliver an Officers' Certificate setting forth the names of individuals and/or titles of officers authorized at such time to take specified actions pursuant to this Indenture, which Officers' Certificate may be signed by any person authorized to sign an Officers' Certificate, including any person specified as so authorized in any such certificate previously delivered and not superseded;

(l) Neither the Trustee nor any of its officers, directors, employees or agents shall be liable for any action taken or omitted under this Indenture or in connection therewith except to the extent caused by the Trustee's gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct, as determined by the final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, no longer subject to appeal or review. Anything in this Indenture to the contrary notwithstanding, in no event shall the Trustee be liable for special, indirect or consequential loss or damage of any kind whatsoever (including but not limited to lost profits), even if the Trustee has been advised of the likelihood of such loss or damage and regardless of the form of action;

(m) The Trustee is not required to give any bond or surety with respect to the performance of its duties or the exercise of its powers under this Indenture; and

(n) Notwithstanding anything else herein contained, whenever any provision of this Indenture indicates that any confirmation of a condition or event is qualified by the words "to the knowledge of" or "known to" the Trustee or other words of similar meaning, said words

shall mean and refer to the current awareness of one or more Responsible Officers who are located at the Corporate Trust Office.

Section 7.03. Individual Rights of Trustee. The Trustee in its individual or any other capacity may become the owner or pledgee of Securities and may otherwise deal with the Company or its Affiliates with the same rights it would have if it were not Trustee. Any Paying Agent, Registrar, Conversion Agent or co-registrar may do the same with like rights. However, the Trustee must comply with Sections 7.10 and 7.11.

Section 7.04. Trustee's Disclaimer. The Trustee makes no representation as to the validity or adequacy of this Indenture or the Securities, shall not be accountable for the Company's use or application of the proceeds from the Securities, and shall not be responsible for any statement in any registration statement for the Securities under the Securities Act or in any offering document for the Securities, the Indenture or the Securities (other than its certificate of authentication), or the determination as to which beneficial owners are entitled to receive any notices hereunder.

Section 7.05. Notice of Defaults. If a Default occurs and if it is known to the Trustee, the Trustee shall give to each Securityholder notice of all current Defaults known to it within 90 days after any such Default occurs or, if later, within 15 days after it is known to the Trustee, unless such Default shall have been cured or waived before the giving of such notice. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, except in the case of a Default described in Sections 6.01(a) and 6.01(b), the Trustee may withhold the notice if and so long as the board of directors, the executive committee or a trust committee of directors and/or officers of the Trustee in good faith determines that withholding the notice is in the interests of Holders. The second sentence of this Section 7.05 shall be in lieu of the proviso to Section 315(b) of the TIA and such proviso is hereby expressly excluded from this Indenture, as permitted by the TIA.

Section 7.06. Reports by Trustee to Holders. Within 60 days after each May 15 beginning with the May 15 following the date of this Indenture, the Trustee shall mail to each Securityholder a brief report dated as of such May 15 that complies with TIA Section 313(a), if required by such Section 313(a), but only to the extent any such report is required to be given pursuant to said TIA Section 313(a), or any successor provision of the TIA. The Trustee also shall comply with TIA Section 313(b).

A copy of each report at the time of its mailing to Holders shall be filed with the SEC and each securities exchange, if any, on which the Securities are listed. The Company agrees to notify the Trustee promptly whenever the securities become listed on any Securities exchange and of any delisting thereof.

Section 7.07. Compensation and Indemnity. The Company agrees:

(a) to pay to the Trustee from time to time, and the Trustee shall be entitled to, such compensation as the Company and the Trustee shall from time to time agree in writing for all services rendered by it hereunder (which compensation shall not be limited (to the extent permitted by law) by any provision of law in regard to the compensation of a trustee of an express trust);

(b) to reimburse the Trustee upon its request for all reasonable expenses, disbursements and advances incurred or made by the Trustee in accordance with any provision of this Indenture or any documents executed in connection herewith (including the reasonable compensation and the expenses, advances and disbursements of its agents and counsel), except any such expense, disbursement or advance as may be attributable to its negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct; and

(c) to indemnify the Trustee or any predecessor Trustee and their respective agents, officers, directors and employees for, and to hold them harmless against, any loss, damage, claim, liability, cost or expense (including attorneys' fees and expenses and taxes (other than taxes based upon, measured by or determined by the income of the Trustee)) incurred without negligence or bad faith on its part, arising out of or in connection with the acceptance or administration of this trust, including the costs and expenses of defending itself against any claim (whether asserted by the Company or any Holder or any other Person) or liability in connection with the exercise or performance of any of its powers or duties hereunder.

To secure the Company's payment obligations in this Section 7.07, the Trustee shall have a lien prior to the Securities on all money or property held or collected by the Trustee, except that held in trust to pay interest installments (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), the principal amount, Redemption Price, Purchase Price, Change in Control Purchase Price or interest, if any, due on overdue amounts, as the case may be, in respect of any particular Securities.

The Company's payment obligations pursuant to this Section 7.07 shall survive the discharge of this Indenture or the earlier termination or resignation of the Trustee. When the Trustee incurs expenses after the occurrence of a Default specified in Section 6.01(f) or Section 6.01(g), the expenses, including the reasonable charges and expenses of its counsel, are intended to constitute expenses of administration under any bankruptcy law.

Any amounts due and owing the Trustee hereunder (whether in nature of fees, expenses, indemnification payments or reimbursement for advances) which have not been paid by or on behalf of the Company within 15 days following written notice thereof given to the Company in accordance with the provisions of Section 12.02, shall bear interest at an interest rate equal to the Trustee's announced prime rate in effect from time to time, plus four percent (4.0%) per annum.

Section 7.08. Replacement of Trustee. The Trustee may resign by so notifying the Company; provided, however, that no such resignation shall be effective until a successor Trustee has accepted its appointment pursuant to this Section 7.08. The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding may remove the Trustee by so notifying the Trustee and the Company. The Company shall remove the Trustee if:

- (a) the Trustee fails to comply with Section 7.10;
- (b) the Trustee is adjudged bankrupt or insolvent;
- (c) a receiver or public officer takes charge of the Trustee or its property; or

(d) the Trustee otherwise becomes incapable of acting.

If the Trustee resigns or is removed or if a vacancy exists in the office of Trustee for any reason, the Company shall promptly appoint, by resolution of its Board of Directors, a successor Trustee.

A successor Trustee shall deliver a written acceptance of its appointment to the retiring Trustee and to the Company satisfactory in form and substance to the retiring Trustee and the Company. Thereupon the resignation or removal of the retiring Trustee shall become effective, and the successor Trustee shall have all the rights, powers and duties of the Trustee under this Indenture; provided, however, notwithstanding the foregoing, the effectiveness of any such resignation or removal shall be conditioned on receipt by the retiring Trustee of all amounts due and owing under Section 7.07 hereof. The successor Trustee shall mail a notice of its succession to Holders. The retiring Trustee shall promptly transfer all property held by it as Trustee to the successor Trustee, subject to the lien provided for in Section 7.07.

If a successor Trustee does not take office within 30 days after the retiring Trustee gives its notice of resignation or is removed, the retiring Trustee, the Company or the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding may petition any court of competent jurisdiction at the expense of the Company for the appointment of a successor Trustee.

If the Trustee fails to comply with Section 7.10, any Securityholder may petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the removal of the Trustee and the appointment of a successor Trustee.

Section 7.09. Successor Trustee by Merger Etc. If the Trustee consolidates with, merges or converts into, or transfers all or substantially all its corporate trust business or assets (including the administration of the trust created by this Indenture) to, another Person, the resulting, surviving or Person corporation without any further act shall be the successor Trustee.

Section 7.10. Eligibility; Disqualification. The Trustee shall at all times satisfy the requirements of TIA Section 310(a)(1). The Trustee (or its parent holding company) shall have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$10,000,000 as set forth in its most recent filed annual report of condition. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Trustee from filing with the SEC the application referred to in the penultimate paragraph of TIA Section 310(b). The Trustee shall comply with TIA Section 310(b); provided, however, that there shall be excluded from the operation of TIA Section 310(b)(1) any indenture or indentures under which other securities or certificates of interest or participation in other securities of the Company are outstanding if the requirements for such exclusion set forth in TIA Section 310(b)(1) are met.

Section 7.11. Preferential Collection of Claims Against Company. The Trustee shall comply with TIA Section 311(a), excluding any creditor relationship listed in TIA Section 311(b). A Trustee who has resigned or been removed shall be subject to TIA Section 311(a) to the extent indicated therein.

ARTICLE 8

DISCHARGE OF INDENTURE

Section 8.01. Discharge of Liability on Securities. When (i) the Company delivers to the Trustee all outstanding Securities (other than Securities replaced pursuant to Section 2.07) for cancellation or (ii) all outstanding Securities have become due and payable and the Company deposits with the Trustee cash sufficient to pay all amounts due and owing on all outstanding Securities (other than Securities replaced pursuant to Section 2.07), and if in either case the Company pays all other sums payable hereunder by the Company, then this Indenture shall, subject to Section 7.07, cease to be of further effect. The Trustee shall join in the execution of a document prepared by the Company acknowledging satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture on demand at the cost and expense of the Company and accompanied by an Officers' Certificate and Opinion of Counsel.

Section 8.02. Repayment to the Company. The Trustee and the Paying Agent shall return to the Company upon written request any money held by them for the payment of any amount and any shares of Common Stock with respect to the Securities that remain unclaimed for two years, subject to applicable unclaimed property law. After return to the Company, as applicable, Holders entitled to the money or shares of Common Stock must look to the Company for payment as general creditors unless an applicable abandoned property law designates another person and the Trustee and the Paying Agent shall have no further liability to the Holders with respect to such money or shares of Common Stock for that period commencing after the return thereof.

ARTICLE 9

AMENDMENTS

Section 9.01. Without Consent of Holders. The Company and the Trustee may amend or supplement this Indenture or the Securities without notice to or consent of any Securityholder:

- (a) to comply with Article 5 or Section 10.12;
- (b) to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, or to make any other change that does not adversely affect the rights of any Securityholder;
- (c) to make provisions with respect to the conversion right of the Holders pursuant to the requirements of Section 10.12 and Section 10.01;
- (d) to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor Trustee with respect to the Securities; or
- (e) to comply with the provisions of the TIA, or with any requirement of the SEC arising as a result of the qualification of this Indenture under the TIA.

Section 9.02. With Consent of Holders.

The Company and the Trustee may amend or supplement this Indenture or the Securities without notice to any Securityholder but with the written consent of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities then outstanding. The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities then outstanding may waive compliance by the Company with restrictive provisions of this Indenture other than as set forth in this Section 9.02 below, and waive any past Default under this Indenture and its consequences, except a Default in the payment of amounts due in respect of any Security or in respect of a provision which under this Indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the Holder of each outstanding Security affected.

Subject to Section 9.04, without the written consent of each Securityholder affected, however, an amendment, supplement or waiver, including a waiver pursuant to Section 6.04, may not:

- (a) change the Stated Maturity of the principal of, or any payment date of any installment of interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), if any, on, any Security;
- (b) reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), on, any Security, whether upon acceleration, redemption or otherwise, or alter the manner of calculation of interest or the rate of accrual thereof on any Security;
- (c) change the currency for payment of principal of, or interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), or adversely affect the price or ratio at which Common Stock may be substituted for currency in connection with any payments made;
- (d) impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment of any amount with respect to any Security when due;
- (e) adversely affect the conversion rights provided in Article 10;
- (f) modify the provisions of this Indenture requiring the Company to make an offer to repurchase Securities upon a Change in Control pursuant to Section 3.09 after a Change in Control or to repurchase the Securities at the option of the Holders pursuant to Section 3.08 in any case;
- (g) reduce the percentage of principal amount of the outstanding Securities necessary to modify or amend this Indenture or to consent to any waiver provided for in this Indenture;
- (h) waive a Default in the payment of any amount with respect to any Security when due (except as provided in Section 6.02); or
- (i) make any changes in Section 6.04, Section 6.07 or this Section 9.02.

It shall not be necessary for the consent of the Holders under this Section 9.02 to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment, supplement or waiver, but it shall be sufficient if such consent approves the substance thereof.

After an amendment under this Section 9.02 becomes effective, the Company shall mail to each Holder a notice briefly describing the amendment. Failure to mail the notice or a defect in the notice shall not effect the validity of the amendment.

Section 9.03. Compliance with Trust Indenture Act. Every supplemental indenture executed pursuant to this Article shall comply with the TIA.

Section 9.04. Revocation and Effect of Consents. Until an amendment, waiver or other action by Holders becomes effective, a consent thereto by a Holder of a Security hereunder is a continuing consent by the Holder and every subsequent Holder of that Security or portion of the Security that evidences the same obligation as the consenting Holder's Security, even if notation of the consent, waiver or action is not made on the Security. However, unless otherwise agreed in writing by such Holder or a predecessor Holder any such Holder or subsequent Holder may revoke the consent, waiver or action as to such Holder's Security or portion of the Security if the Trustee receives the notice of revocation before the date the amendment, waiver or action becomes effective. After an amendment, waiver or action becomes effective, it shall bind every Securityholder.

Section 9.05. Notation on or Exchange of Securities. Securities authenticated and delivered after the execution of any supplemental indenture pursuant to this Article 9 may, and shall if required by the Trustee, bear a notation in form approved by the Trustee as to any matter provided for in such supplemental indenture. If the Company shall so determine, new Securities so modified as to conform, in the opinion of the Trustee and the Board of Directors of the Company, to any such supplemental indenture may be prepared and executed by the Company and authenticated and delivered by the Trustee in exchange for outstanding Securities.

Section 9.06. Trustee to Sign Supplemental Indentures. The Trustee shall sign any supplemental indenture authorized pursuant to this Article 9 if the amendment contained therein does not, in the sole determination of the Trustee, adversely affect the rights, duties, powers, privileges, benefits, indemnities, liabilities or immunities of the Trustee. If it does, the Trustee may, but need not, sign such supplemental indenture. In signing such supplemental indenture the Trustee shall be entitled to receive, and (subject to the provisions of Section 7.01) shall be fully protected in relying upon, an Officers' Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel stating that such amendment is authorized or permitted by this Indenture.

Section 9.07. Effect of Supplemental Indentures. Upon the execution of any supplemental indenture under this Article 9, this Indenture shall be modified in accordance therewith, and such supplemental indenture shall form a part of this Indenture for all purposes, and every Holder of Securities theretofore or thereafter authenticated and delivered hereunder shall be bound thereby.

ARTICLE 10

CONVERSION OF THE SECURITIES

Section 10.01. Conversion Privilege. Subject to the provisions of this Article 10, a Holder of a Security may convert such Security into Common Stock, at the Conversion Price then in effect, if any of the following conditions is satisfied:

(a) during any calendar quarter (the “Quarter”) commencing after the Issue Date, if the Closing Price per share of Common Stock for at least 20 Trading Days in the period of 30 consecutive Trading Days ending on the last Trading Day of the Quarter immediately preceding such Quarter (appropriately adjusted to take into account the occurrence, during such 20 Trading Day period, of any event requiring adjustment of the Conversion Price under this Indenture) is more than 150% of the Conversion Price on such 30th Trading Day;

(b) the Security has been called for redemption by the Company pursuant to Section 3.01 and the redemption has not yet occurred;

(c) the conversion of such Security occurs during the five Trading Day period immediately after a period of five consecutive Trading Days in which the Security Trading Price for each Trading Day in such period was less than 95% of the product of the Closing Price per share of Common Stock on such Trading Day multiplied by the number of shares of Common Stock issuable (assuming satisfaction of conditions to conversion) upon conversion of \$1,000 in principal amount of the Securities; provided, that, with respect to any such conversion, if the Closing Price of the Common Stock as of such date of conversion is greater than the Effective Conversion Price but less than 150% of the Effective Conversion Price, then Holders shall receive in such conversion (a “Principal Value Conversion”), in lieu of Common Stock based on the Conversion Rate, a number of Shares of Common Stock equal to the principal amount of such Holder’s Security plus accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest), if any, as of the conversion date, divided by the Principal Value Conversion Share Price. The Principal Value Conversion Share Price shall be equal to the greater of (i) the Effective Conversion Price on the conversion date and (ii) the Closing Price of Common Stock on the conversion date. The Company shall deliver such Common Stock no later than the third Business Day following the determination of the Principal Value Conversion Share Price. The “Effective Conversion Price” as of any date of determination shall be equal to \$1,000 divided by the Conversion Rate as of the eighth Trading Day prior to the date of determination”;

(d) (i) an issuance of rights, warrants or options referred to in Section 10.06(b) occurs or (ii) a distribution referred to in Section 10.06(c) occurs where the fair market value of such distribution per share of Common Stock (as determined by the Board of Directors of the Company, which determination shall be conclusive evidence of such fair market value) exceeds 10% of the Closing Price per share of Common Stock on the Trading Day immediately preceding the date of declaration of such distribution; or

(e) (i) the Company is party to a consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale of all or substantially all of its assets or other similar transaction pursuant to which the Common Stock is subject to conversion into shares of stock (other than Common Stock), other securities or property (including cash) subject to Section 10.12 and (ii) the conversion of such Security occurs at any time from and after the date that is 15 days prior to the date of the anticipated effective time of such transaction until and including the date that is 15 days after the actual effective date of such transaction; provided, however, that if such conversion occurs after the effective date of such transaction, the Holder will receive on conversion the consideration determined in accordance with Section 10.12.

In the case of the foregoing clause (c), the Trustee (or other Conversion Agent appointed by the Company) shall have no obligation to determine the Security Trading Price unless the Company has requested such a determination; and the Company shall have no obligation to make such request unless a Holder provides it with reasonable evidence that the Security Trading Price per \$1,000 principal amount of such series of Securities would be less

than 95% of the product of the Closing Price per share of Common Stock on such Trading Date multiplied by the number of shares of Common Stock issuable (assuming satisfaction of conditions to conversion) upon conversion of \$1,000 in principal amount of the Securities. If such evidence is provided, the Company shall instruct the Trustee (or other Conversion Agent) to determine the Securities Trading Price of the Securities beginning on the next Trading Day and on each successive Trading Day until the Securities Trading Price per \$1,000 principal amount of such Securities is greater than or equal to 95% of the product of the Closing Price per share of Common Stock on such Trading Date multiplied by the number of shares of Common Stock issuable (assuming satisfaction of conditions to conversion) upon conversion of \$1,000 in principal amount of the Securities; provided that the Trustee shall be under no duty or obligation to make the calculations described in the foregoing clause (c) or to determine whether the Securities are convertible pursuant to such section. The Company shall make the calculations described in the foregoing clause (c), using the Securities Trading Price provided by the Trustee.

The Trustee shall be entitled at its sole discretion to consult with the Company and to request the assistance of and rely upon the Company in connection with the Trustee's duties and obligations pursuant to the foregoing clause (c) (including without limitation the calculation or determination of the Securities Trading Price), and the Company agrees, if requested by the Trustee, to cooperate with, and provide assistance to, the Trustee in carrying out its duties under the foregoing clause (c); provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to relieve the Trustee of its duties pursuant to the foregoing clause (c).

In the case of the foregoing clauses (d)(i) and (ii), the Company shall cause a notice of such issuance or distribution to be filed with the Trustee and the Conversion Agent and to be mailed to each Holder of Securities at its address appearing on the list provided for in Section 2.05, at least 20 days prior to the Ex-Dividend Date for such issuance or distribution. Once the Company has given such notice, Holders may surrender their Securities for conversion at any time thereafter until the earlier of the close of business on the Business Day prior to the Ex-Dividend Date or the Company's announcement that such issuance or distribution will not take place. This provision shall not apply if the Holder of a Security otherwise participates in the distribution without conversion.

The "Ex-Dividend Date" for any such issuance or distribution means the date immediately prior to the commencement of "ex-dividend" trading for such issuance or distribution on The New York Stock Exchange or such other national securities exchange or The Nasdaq Stock Market or similar system of automated dissemination of quotations of securities prices on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted.

The number of shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of a Security shall be determined by dividing the principal amount of the Security or portion thereof surrendered for conversion by the Conversion Price in effect on the Conversion Date. The initial Conversion Price is set forth in paragraph 8 of the Securities and is subject to adjustment as provided in this Article 10. If any Securities are properly presented for conversion, the Company, at its option, instead of delivering the shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of such Securities, may pay the Holder the Cash Conversion Price.

A Holder may convert a portion of a Security equal to \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof. Provisions of this Indenture that apply to conversion of all of a Security also apply to conversion of a portion of a Security.

If a Security is called for redemption pursuant to Article 3, the right to convert such Security shall terminate at the close of business on the second Business Day before the redemption date for such Security (unless the Company shall default in making the redemption payment then due, in which case the conversion right shall terminate on the date such Default is cured and such Security is redeemed). A Security in respect of which a Holder has delivered a Purchase Notice pursuant to Section 3.08 or a Change in Control Purchase Notice pursuant to Section 3.09 exercising the option of such Holder to require the Company to repurchase such Security may be converted only if such Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, is withdrawn by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to the Paying Agent prior to the close of business on the Purchase Date or prior to the close of business on the Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, in accordance with Section 3.10.

A Holder of Securities is not entitled to any rights of a holder of Common Stock until such Holder has converted its Securities into Common Stock and, upon such conversion, only to the extent such Securities are deemed to have been converted into Common Stock pursuant to this Article 10.

Section 10.02. Conversion Procedure. To convert a Security, a Holder must satisfy the requirements in paragraph 8 of the Securities and (i) complete and manually sign the conversion notice on the back of the Security and deliver such notice to the Conversion Agent, (ii) surrender the Security to the Conversion Agent, (iii) furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents if required by the Registrar or the Conversion Agent, (iv) pay any transfer or other tax, if required by Section 10.04 and (v) if the Security is held in book-entry form, complete and deliver to the Depository appropriate instructions pursuant to the Depository's book-entry conversion programs. The date on which the Holder satisfies all of the foregoing requirements is the "Conversion Date". As soon as practicable after the Conversion Date and in any event within five Business Days, the Company shall deliver to the Holder through the Conversion Agent either (i) a certificate for or (ii) a book-entry notation of the number of whole shares of Common Stock issuable upon the conversion and cash in lieu of any fractional shares pursuant to Section 10.05.

The Person in whose name the Security is registered shall be deemed to be a stockholder of record on the Conversion Date; provided, however, that no surrender of a Security on any date when the stock transfer books of the Company shall be closed shall be effective to constitute the Person or Persons entitled to receive the shares of Common Stock upon such conversion as the record holder or holders of such shares of Common Stock on such date, but such surrender shall be effective to constitute the Person or Persons entitled to receive such shares of Common Stock as the record holder or holders thereof for all purposes at the close of business on the next succeeding day on which such stock transfer books are open (subject to the provisions of the next paragraph of this Section 10.02); provided, further, that such conversion shall be at the Conversion Price in effect on the date that such Security shall have been

surrendered for conversion, as if the stock transfer books of the Company had not been closed. Upon conversion of a Security, such Person shall no longer be a Holder of such Security.

If the Company elects to pay cash instead of issuing shares with regard to a Security properly presented for conversion, the Company shall notify the Holder and the Trustee of such election no later than the second Business Day after the Conversion Date of the Security. If the Holder does not withdraw such election to convert, the Company shall pay the Cash Conversion Price in respect of the Security converted in cash not later than the tenth Business Day after the Conversion Date.

No payment or adjustment will be made for accrued interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), on a converted Security or for dividends or distributions on shares of Common Stock issued upon conversion of a Security (provided that the shares of Common Stock received upon conversion of Securities shall continue to accrue Liquidated Damages, as applicable, in accordance with the Registration Rights Agreement and shall be entitled to receive, at the next interest payment date, any accrued but unpaid Liquidated Damages with respect to the converted Securities), but if any Holder surrenders a Security for conversion between the record date for the payment of an installment of interest and the next interest payment date, then, notwithstanding such conversion, the interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), payable on such interest payment date shall be paid to the Holder of such Security on such interest payment date. In such event, such Security, when surrendered for conversion, must be accompanied by delivery of a check payable to the Conversion Agent in an amount equal to the interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), payable on such interest payment date on the portion so converted. If such payment does not accompany such Security, the Security shall not be converted; provided, however, that no such check shall be required if such Security has been called for redemption on a redemption date within the period between and including such record date and such interest payment date, or if such Security is surrendered for conversion on the interest payment date. If the Company defaults in the payment of interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), payable on the interest payment date, the Conversion Agent shall repay such funds to the Holder.

No fractional shares of Common Stock shall be issued upon conversion of Securities. If more than one Security shall be surrendered for conversion at one time by the same holder, the number of full shares which shall be issuable upon conversion shall be computed on the basis of the aggregate principal amount of the Securities (or specified portions thereof to the extent permitted hereby) so surrendered. If any fractional share of Common Stock would be issuable upon the conversion of any Security or Securities, the Company shall make a payment in lieu thereof in cash based on the current market price of a share of Common Stock. For these purposes, the current market price of a share of Common Stock shall be the Closing Price per share of Common Stock on the first Business Day immediately preceding the day on which the Securities (or specified portions thereof) are deemed to have been converted.

Upon surrender of a Security that is converted in part, the Company shall execute, and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver to the Holder, a new Security equal in principal amount to the unconverted portion of the Security surrendered.

Section 10.03. Adjustments Below Par Value. Before taking any action which would cause an adjustment decreasing the Conversion Price so that the shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Securities would be issued for less than the par value of such Common Stock, the Company will take all corporate action which may be necessary in order that the Company may validly and legally issue fully paid and nonassessable shares of such Common Stock at such adjusted Conversion Price.

Section 10.04. Taxes on Conversion. If a Holder converts a Security, the Company shall pay any documentary, stamp or similar issue or transfer tax due on the issue of shares of Common Stock upon such conversion. However, the Holder shall pay any such tax which is due because the Holder requests the shares to be issued in a name other than the Holder's name. The Conversion Agent may refuse to deliver the certificates representing the Common Stock being issued in a name other than the Holder's name until the Conversion Agent receives a sum sufficient to pay any tax which will be due because the shares are to be issued in a name other than the Holder's name. Nothing herein shall preclude any tax withholding required by law or regulations.

Section 10.05. Company to Provide Stock.

The Company shall, prior to issuance of any Securities hereunder, and from time to time as may be necessary, reserve, out of its authorized but unissued Common Stock a sufficient number of shares of Common Stock to permit the conversion of all outstanding Securities into shares of Common Stock. The shares of Common Stock or other securities issued upon conversion of Securities bearing a Legend as provided in Section 2.06(f) shall bear a legend substantially in the following form:

“THIS SECURITY (OR ITS PREDECESSOR) WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED IN A TRANSACTION EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE “SECURITIES ACT”), AND THIS SECURITY MAY NOT BE OFFERED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH REGISTRATION OR AN APPLICABLE EXEMPTION FROM THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECURITIES ACT. EACH PURCHASER OF THIS SECURITY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE SELLER OF THIS SECURITY MAY BE RELYING ON THE EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 OF THE SECURITIES ACT PROVIDED BY RULE 144A THEREUNDER.

THE HOLDER OF THIS SECURITY AGREES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMPANY THAT (A) THIS SECURITY MAY BE OFFERED, RESOLD, PLEDGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED, ONLY (I) TO A PERSON WHOM THE SELLER REASONABLY BELIEVES IS A QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYER (AS DEFINED IN RULE 144A

UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT) IN A TRANSACTION MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF RULE 144A, (II) PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT PROVIDED BY RULE 144 THEREUNDER (IF AVAILABLE) OR (III) PURSUANT TO AN EFFECTIVE REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT, IN EACH OF CASES (I) THROUGH (III) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND (B) THE HOLDER WILL, AND EACH SUBSEQUENT HOLDER IS REQUIRED TO, NOTIFY ANY PURCHASER OF THIS SECURITY FROM THE HOLDER OF THE RESALE RESTRICTIONS REFERRED TO IN (A) ABOVE.”

The Company covenants that all shares of Common Stock delivered upon conversion of the Securities shall be newly issued shares or treasury shares, shall be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable and shall be free from preemptive rights and free of any lien or adverse claim.

The Company will endeavor promptly to comply with all federal and state securities laws regulating the offer and delivery of shares of Common Stock upon conversion of Securities, if any, and will list or cause to have quoted such shares of Common Stock on each national securities exchange or in the over-the-counter market or such other market on which the Common Stock is then listed or quoted.

Section 10.06. Adjustment of Conversion Price. The conversion price (the “Conversion Price”) initially shall be that price set forth in paragraph 8 of the form of Security attached hereto as Exhibit A-1, but shall be adjusted from time to time by the Company as follows:

(a) In case the Company shall (i) pay a dividend or other distribution in shares of Common Stock to all holders of Common Stock, (ii) subdivide its outstanding Common Stock into a greater number of shares, (iii) combine its outstanding Common Stock into a smaller number of shares or (iv) reclassify its outstanding Common Stock, the Conversion Price in effect immediately prior thereto shall be adjusted so that the Holder of any Security thereafter surrendered for conversion shall be entitled to receive the number of shares of Capital Stock which it would have owned or have been entitled to receive had such Security been converted immediately prior to the happening of such event. An adjustment made pursuant to this subsection (a) shall become effective immediately after the record date in the case of a dividend or distribution and shall become effective immediately after the effective date in the case of subdivision, combination or reclassification.

(b) In case the Company shall issue to all holders of its Common Stock, rights, warrants or options entitling such holders (for a period commencing no earlier than the record date described below and expiring not more than 60 days after such record date) to subscribe for or purchase shares of Common Stock (or securities convertible into Common

Stock) at a price per share less than the Market Price at the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to receive such rights, warrants or options, the Conversion Price in effect immediately prior thereto shall be adjusted so that the Conversion Price shall equal the price determined by multiplying the Conversion Price in effect immediately prior to such record date by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding on such record date, plus the number of shares which the aggregate subscription or purchase price for the total number of shares of Common Stock offered by the rights, warrants or options so issued (or the aggregate conversion price of the convertible securities offered by such rights, warrants or options) would purchase at such Market Price, and the denominator of which shall be the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding on such record date plus the number of additional shares of Common Stock offered by such rights, warrants or options (or into which the convertible securities so offered by such rights, warrants or options are convertible). Such adjustment shall be made successively whenever any such rights, warrants or options are issued, and shall become effective immediately after such record date. If at the end of the period during which such rights, warrants or options are exercisable not all rights, warrants or options shall have been exercised, the adjusted Conversion Price shall be immediately readjusted to what it would have been upon application of the foregoing adjustment substituting the number of additional shares of Common Stock actually issued (or the number of shares of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of convertible securities actually issued) for the total number of shares of Common Stock offered (or the convertible securities offered).

(c) In case the Company shall distribute to all holders of its Common Stock any shares of Capital Stock of the Company (other than Common Stock) or evidences of its indebtedness, other securities or other assets, or shall distribute to all holders of its Common Stock, rights, warrants or options to subscribe for or purchase any of its securities (excluding (i) rights, options and warrants referred to in Section 10.06(b) above; (ii) those dividends, distributions, subdivisions and combinations referred to in Section 10.06(a) above; and (iii) dividends and distributions paid in cash), then in each such case the Conversion Price shall be adjusted so that the same shall equal the price determined by multiplying the Conversion Price in effect immediately prior to the date of such distribution by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the Market Price on the record date mentioned below less the fair market value on such record date (as determined by the Board of Directors of the Company, whose determination shall be conclusive evidence of such fair market value) of the portion of the Capital Stock or evidences of indebtedness, securities or assets so distributed or of such rights, warrants or options, in each case as applicable, to one share of Common Stock, and the denominator of which shall be the Market Price on such record date; *provided* that no adjustment to the Conversion Price or the ability of a Holder of a Security to convert will be made pursuant to this Section 10.06(c) if the Company provides that Holders of Securities will participate in such cash dividend or distribution on an as-converted basis without conversion and *provided further*, that if the numerator of the foregoing fraction is less than \$1.00 (including a negative amount), then in lieu of the foregoing adjustment, adequate provision shall be made so that each Holder shall have the right to receive upon conversion, in addition to the Common Stock issuable upon such conversion, the distribution such Holder would have received had such Holder converted its Security immediately prior to the record date for such distribution. Such adjustment shall become effective immediately after the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to receive such distribution.

(d) In case a tender or exchange offer made by the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company for all or any portion of the Common Stock shall expire and such tender or exchange offer (as amended as of the expiration thereof) shall require the payment to common stockholders of consideration per share of Common Stock having a fair market value (as determined by the Board of Directors, whose determination shall be conclusive and described in a resolution of the Board of Directors) that as of the last time (the "Expiration Time") tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to such tender or exchange offer (as it may be amended) exceeds the Closing Price of a share of Common Stock on the Trading Day next succeeding the Expiration Time, the Conversion Price shall be decreased so that the same shall equal the price determined by multiplying the Conversion Price in effect immediately prior to the Expiration Time by a fraction,

(i) the numerator of which shall be the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding (including any tendered or exchanged shares) at the Expiration Time multiplied by the Closing Price of a share of Common Stock on the Trading Day next succeeding the Expiration Time, and

(ii) the denominator of which shall be the sum of (x) the fair market value (determined as aforesaid) of the aggregate consideration payable to stockholders based on the acceptance (up to any maximum specified in the terms of the tender or exchange offer) of all shares validly tendered or exchanged and not withdrawn as of the Expiration Time (the shares deemed so accepted up to any such maximum, being referred to as the "Purchased Shares") and (y) the product of the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding (less any Purchased Shares) at the Expiration Time and the Closing Price of a share of Common Stock on the Trading Day next succeeding the Expiration Time,

such adjustment to become effective immediately prior to the opening of business on the day following the Expiration Time. If the Company is obligated to purchase shares pursuant to any such tender or exchange offer, but the Company is permanently prevented by applicable law from effecting any such purchases or all such purchases are rescinded, the Conversion Price shall again be adjusted to be the Conversion Price that would then be in effect if such tender or exchange offer had not been made.

(e) In case the Company shall declare a cash dividend or distribution to all or substantially all of the holders of Common Stock, the Conversion Price shall be decreased so that the Conversion Price shall equal the price determined by multiplying the Conversion Price in effect immediately prior to the record date for such dividend or distribution by a fraction,

(i) the numerator of which shall be the average of the Closing Prices of the Common Stock price for the three consecutive trading days ending on the date immediately preceding the record date for such dividend or distribution (the "Pre-Dividend Sale Price"), minus the full amount of such cash dividend or distribution applicable to one share of Common Stock, and

(ii) the denominator of which shall be the Pre-Dividend Sale Price,

such adjustment to become effective immediately after the record date for such dividend or distribution; *provided* that no adjustment to the Conversion Price or the ability of a Holder of a Security to convert will be made pursuant to this Section 10.06(e) if the Company provides that Holders of Securities will participate in such cash dividend or distribution on an as-converted basis without conversion and *provided further*, that if the numerator of the foregoing fraction is less than \$1.00 (including a negative amount), then in lieu of the foregoing adjustment, adequate provision shall be made so that each Holder shall have the right to receive upon conversion, in addition to the Common Stock issuable upon such conversion, the amount of cash such Holder would have received had such Holder converted its Security immediately prior to the record date for such dividend or distribution. If such dividend or distribution is not so paid or made, the Conversion Price shall again be adjusted to be the Conversion Price that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared.

(f) Reserved.

(g) If the rights provided for in the Company's Rights Agreement dated as of May 9, 1996 (the "Stockholder Rights Plan") have separated from the Company's Common Stock in accordance with the provisions of the Stockholder Rights Plan so that the Holders of the Securities would not be entitled to receive any rights in respect of Common Stock issuable upon conversion of the Securities, the Conversion Price will be adjusted as provided in paragraph (c) above, subject to readjustment in the event of the expiration, termination or redemption of the rights. In lieu of any such adjustment, the Company may amend the Stockholder Rights Plan to provide that upon conversion of the Securities the Holders will receive, in addition to Common Stock issuable upon such conversion, the rights which would have attached to such shares of Common Stock if the rights had not become separated from the Common Stock under the Company's Stockholder Rights Plan. To the extent that the Company adopts any future rights plan, upon conversion of the Securities into Common Stock, Securityholders will receive, in addition to Common Stock, the rights under the future rights plan whether or not the rights have separated from the Common Stock at the time of conversion and no adjustment to the Conversion Price will be made in connection with any distribution of rights thereunder.

(h) In case of a tender or exchange offer made by a Person other than the Company or any Subsidiary for an amount that increases the offeror's ownership of Common Stock to more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the Common Stock outstanding and shall involve the payment by such Person of consideration per share of Common Stock having a fair market value (as determined by the Board of Directors, whose determination shall be conclusive, and described in a resolution of the Board of Directors) as of the Expiration Time tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to such tender or exchange offer (as it may be amended) that exceeds the Closing Price of a share of Common Stock on the Trading Day next succeeding the Expiration Time, and in which, as of the Expiration Time the Board of Directors is not recommending rejection of the offer, the Conversion Price shall be decreased so that the same shall equal the rate determined by multiplying the Conversion Price in effect immediately prior to the Expiration Time by a fraction,

(i) the numerator of which shall be the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding (including any tendered or exchanged shares) at the Expiration

Time multiplied by the Closing Price of a share of Common Stock on the Trading Day next succeeding the Expiration Time, and

(ii) the denominator of which shall be the sum of (x) the fair market value (determined as aforesaid) of the aggregate consideration payable to stockholders based on the acceptance (up to any maximum specified in the terms of the tender or exchange offer) of all shares validly tendered or exchanged and not withdrawn as of the Expiration Time (the shares so accepted up to any such maximum, being referred to as the "Purchase Shares") and (y) the product of the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding (less any Purchased Shares) at the Expiration Time and the Closing Price of a share of Common Stock on the Trading Day next succeeding the Expiration Time,

such adjustment to become effective immediately prior to the opening of business on the day following the Expiration Time. If such Person is obligated to purchase shares pursuant to any such tender or exchange offer, but such Person is permanently prevented by applicable law from effecting any such purchases or all such purchases are rescinded, the Conversion Price shall again be adjusted to be the Conversion Price that would then be in effect if such tender or exchange offer had not been made. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the adjustment described in this Section 10.06(h) shall not be made if, as of the Expiration Time, the offering documents with respect to such offer disclose a plan or intention to cause the Company to engage in any transaction described in Article 5.

In any case in which this Section 10.06 shall require that an adjustment be made immediately following a record date established for purposes of Section 10.06, the Company may elect to defer (but only until five Business Days following the filing by the Company with the Trustee of the certificate described in Section 10.06) issuing to the holder of any Security converted after such record date the shares of Common Stock and other Capital Stock of the Company issuable upon such conversion over and above the shares of Common Stock and other Capital Stock of the Company issuable upon such conversion only on the basis of the Conversion Price prior to adjustment; and, in lieu of the shares the issuance of which is so deferred, the Company shall issue or cause its transfer agents to issue due bills or other appropriate evidence of the right to receive such shares.

Section 10.07. No Adjustment. No adjustment in the Conversion Price shall be required unless the adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least 1% in the Conversion Price as last adjusted; provided, however, that any adjustments which by reason of this Section 10.07 are not required to be made shall be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment. All calculations under this Article 10 shall be made to the nearest cent or to the nearest one-hundredth of a share, as the case may be.

No adjustment need be made for a transaction referred to in Section 10.06 if Holders are to participate in the transaction on a basis and with notice that the Board of Directors determines to be fair and appropriate in light of the basis and notice on which holders of Common Stock participate in the transaction. Such participation by Holders may include

participation upon conversion; provided that an adjustment shall be made at such time as the Holders are no longer entitled to participate.

No adjustment need be made for rights to purchase Common Stock or issuances of Common Stock pursuant to a Company plan for reinvestment of dividends or interest.

No adjustment need be made for a change in the par value or a change to no par value of the Common Stock.

To the extent that the Securities become convertible into cash, no adjustment need be made thereafter as to the cash. Interest will not accrue on the cash.

Section 10.08. Equivalent Adjustments. If, as a result of an adjustment made pursuant to Section 10.06 above, the holder of any Security thereafter surrendered for conversion shall become entitled to receive any shares of Capital Stock of the Company other than shares of its Common Stock, thereafter the Conversion Price of such other shares so receivable upon conversion of any Securities shall be subject to adjustment from time to time in a manner and on terms as nearly equivalent as practicable to the provisions with respect to Common Stock contained in this Article 10.

Section 10.09. Adjustment for Tax Purposes. The Company shall be entitled to make such reductions in the Conversion Price, in addition to those required by Section 10.06, as it in its discretion shall determine to be advisable in order that any stock dividends, subdivision of shares, distribution of rights to purchase stock or securities, or a distribution or securities convertible into or exchangeable for stock hereafter made by the Company to its stockholders shall not be taxable.

Section 10.10. Notice of Adjustment. Whenever the Conversion Price is adjusted, or Holders become entitled to other securities or due bills, the Company shall promptly mail to Holders a notice of the adjustment and file with the Trustee an Officers' Certificate briefly stating the facts requiring the adjustment and the manner of computing it. The certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the correctness of such adjustment and the Trustee may conclusively assume that, unless and until such certificate is received by it, no such adjustment is required.

Section 10.11. Notice of Certain Transactions. In case:

- (a) the Company shall declare a dividend (or any other distribution) on its Common Stock; or
- (b) the Company shall authorize the granting to the holders of its Common Stock of rights, warrants or options to subscribe for or purchase any share of any class or any other rights, warrants or options; or
- (c) of any reclassification of the Common Stock of the Company (other than a subdivision or combination of its outstanding Common Stock, or a change in par value, or from par value to no par value, or from no par value to par value), or of any consolidation, merger, or

share exchange to which the Company is a party and for which approval of any stockholders of the Company is required, or of the sale or transfer of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company; or

(d) of the voluntary or involuntary dissolution, liquidation or winding-up of the Company;

the Company shall cause to be filed with the Trustee and the Conversion Agent and to be mailed to each Holder of Securities at its address appearing on the list provided for in Section 2.05, as promptly as possible but in any event at least ten days prior to the applicable date hereinafter specified, a notice stating (x) the date on which a record is to be taken for the purpose of such dividend, distribution or rights, warrants or options, or, if a record is not to be taken, the date as of which the holders of Common Stock of record to be entitled to such dividend, distribution or rights are to be determined, or (y) the date on which such reclassification, consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale, transfer, dissolution, liquidation or winding-up is expected to become effective or occur, and the date as of which it is expected that holders of Common Stock of record shall be entitled to exchange their Common Stock for securities or other property deliverable upon such reclassification, consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale, transfer, dissolution, liquidation or winding-up. Failure to give such notice, or any defect therein, shall not affect the legality or validity of such dividend, distribution, reclassification, consolidation, merger, sale, share exchange, transfer, dissolution, liquidation or winding-up.

Section 10.12. Effect of Reclassification, Consolidation, Merger, Share Exchange or Sale on Conversion Privilege.

If any of the following shall occur, namely: (i) any reclassification or change of outstanding shares of Common Stock (other than a change in par value, or from par value to no par value, or from no par value to par value, or as a result of a subdivision or combination); (ii) any consolidation, combination, merger or share exchange to which the Company is a party other than a merger in which the Company is the continuing corporation and which does not result in any reclassification of, or change (other than a change in name, or par value, or from par value to no par value, or from no par value to par value, or as a result of a subdivision or combination) in, outstanding shares of Common Stock; or (iii) any sale or conveyance of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, then the Company, or such successor or purchasing corporation, as the case may be, shall, as a condition precedent to such reclassification, change, consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale or conveyance, execute and deliver to the Trustee a supplemental indenture providing that the Holder of each Security then outstanding shall have the right to convert such Security into the kind and amount of shares of Capital Stock and other securities and property (including cash) receivable upon such reclassification, change, consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale or conveyance by a holder of the number of shares of Common Stock deliverable upon conversion of such Security immediately prior to such reclassification, change, consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale or conveyance. Such supplemental indenture shall provide for adjustments of the Conversion Price which shall be as nearly equivalent as may be practicable to the adjustments of the Conversion Price provided for in this Article 10. If, in the case of any such consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale or conveyance, the stock or other securities and property (including cash) receivable thereupon by a holder of

Common Stock includes shares of Capital Stock or other securities and property of a corporation other than the successor or purchasing corporation, as the case may be, in such consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale or conveyance, then such supplemental indenture shall also be executed by such other corporation and shall contain such additional provisions to protect the interests of the Holders of the Securities as the Board of Directors of the Company shall reasonably consider necessary by reason of the foregoing. The provision of this Section 10.12 shall similarly apply to successive consolidations, mergers, share exchanges, sales or conveyances. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a distribution by the Company to all or substantially all holders of its Common Stock for which an adjustment to the Conversion Price or provision for conversion of the Securities may be made pursuant to Section 10.06 shall not be deemed to be a sale or conveyance of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company for purposes of this Section 10.12.

In the event the Company shall execute a supplemental indenture pursuant to this Section 10.12, the Company shall promptly file with the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel stating that such supplemental indenture is authorized or permitted by this Indenture and an Officers' Certificate briefly stating the reasons therefor, the kind or amount of shares of stock or securities or property (including cash) receivable by Holders of the Securities upon the conversion of their Securities after any such reclassification, change, consolidation, merger, share exchange, sale or conveyance, any adjustment to be made with respect thereto and that all conditions precedent have been complied with.

Section 10.13. Trustee's Disclaimer.

The Trustee has no duty to determine when an adjustment under this Article 10 should be made, how it should be made or what such adjustment should be made, but may accept as conclusive evidence of the correctness of any such adjustment, and shall be protected in relying upon, the Officers' Certificate with respect thereto which the Company is obligated to file with the Trustee pursuant to Section 10.10. The Trustee shall not be accountable for and makes no representation as to the validity or value of any securities or assets issued upon conversion of Securities, and the Trustee shall not be responsible for the Company's failure to comply with any provisions of this Article 10. Each Conversion Agent (other than the Company or an Affiliate of the Company) shall have the same protection under this Section 10.13 as the Trustee.

The Trustee shall not be under any responsibility to determine the correctness of any provisions contained in any supplemental indenture executed pursuant to Section 10.12, but may accept as conclusive evidence of the correctness thereof, and shall be protected in relying upon, the Officers' Certificate with respect thereto which the Company is obligated to file with the Trustee pursuant to Section 10.12.

Section 10.14. Voluntary Reduction.

The Company from time to time may reduce the Conversion Price by any amount for any period of time if the period is at least 20 Trading Days or such longer period as may be required by law and if the reduction is irrevocable during the period; provided that in no event may the Conversion Price be less than the par value of a share of Common Stock.

Section 10.15. Simultaneous Adjustments.

In the event that this Article 10 requires adjustments to the Conversion Price under more than one of Sections 10.06(a) and (c), and the record dates for the distributions giving rise to such adjustments shall occur on the same date, then such adjustments shall be made by applying, first, the provisions of Section 10.06(c), as applicable, and, second, the provisions of Section 10.06(a). If more than one event requiring adjustment pursuant to Section 10.06 shall occur before completing the determination of the Conversion Price for the first event requiring such adjustment, then the Board of Directors (whose determination shall, if made in good faith, be conclusive) shall make such adjustments to the Conversion Price (and the calculation thereof) after giving effect to all such events as shall preserve for Holders the Conversion Price protection provided in Section 10.06.

ARTICLE 11

SUBORDINATION

Section 11.01. Securities Subordinated to Senior Indebtedness.

The Company covenants and agrees, and each Holder of the Securities, by its acceptance thereof, likewise covenants and agrees, that all Securities shall be issued subject to the provisions of this Article 11; and each Person holding any Security, whether upon original issue or upon transfer, assignment or exchange thereof, accepts and agrees that the payment of all Obligations on the Securities by the Company shall, to the extent and in the manner herein set forth, be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full in cash or Cash Equivalents of all Obligations on Senior Indebtedness, including, without limitation, the Company's Obligations under the Credit Agreement; that the subordination is for the benefit of, and shall be enforceable directly by, the holders of Senior Indebtedness or their Representative, and that each holder of Senior Indebtedness or their Representative whether now outstanding or hereafter created, incurred, assumed or guaranteed shall be deemed to have acquired Senior Indebtedness in reliance upon the covenants and provisions contained in this Indenture and the Securities.

Section 11.02. Payments to Holders.

No payment shall be made with respect to the Obligations on the Securities (including, but not limited to, the Change in Control Purchase Price with respect to the Securities subject to purchase in accordance with Article 3 as provided in this Indenture), except payments and distributions made by the Trustee as permitted by the first or second paragraph of Section 11.05, if:

(i) a default in the Obligations due on any Designated Senior Indebtedness occurs and is continuing (or, in the case of Designated Senior Indebtedness for which there is a period of grace, in the event of such a default that continues beyond the period of grace, if any, specified in the instrument or lease evidencing such Designated Senior Indebtedness); or

(ii) a default, other than a payment default, on any Designated Senior Indebtedness occurs and is continuing that then permits holders of such

Designated Senior Indebtedness to accelerate its maturity and the Trustee receives a notice of the default (a "Payment Blockage Notice") from a Representative or holder of Designated Senior Indebtedness or the Company.

Subject to the provisions of Section 11.05, if the Trustee receives any Payment Blockage Notice pursuant to clause (ii) above, no subsequent Payment Blockage Notice shall be effective for purposes of this Section unless and until at least 365 consecutive days shall have elapsed since the effectiveness of the immediately prior Payment Blockage Notice and all scheduled payments on the Securities that have come due have been paid in full in cash. No nonpayment default that existed or was continuing on the date of delivery of any Payment Blockage Notice to the Trustee (unless such default was waived, cured or otherwise ceased to exist for a period of at least 60 consecutive days prior to the date of such subsequent Payment Blockage Notice and thereafter subsequently reoccurred) shall be, or be made, the basis for a subsequent Payment Blockage Notice.

The Company may and shall resume payments on and distributions in respect of the Securities:

(a) in the case of a default referred to in clause (i) above, upon the date upon which the default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, or

(b) in the case of a default referred to in clause (ii) above, upon the earlier of (1) the date on which such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist or (2) 179 days after the date on which the applicable Payment Blockage Notice is received, if the maturity of such Designated Senior Indebtedness has not been accelerated, unless this Article 11 otherwise prohibits the payment or distribution at the time of such payment or distribution.

Upon any payment by the Company, or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, to creditors upon any dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of the Company (whether voluntary or involuntary) or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar proceedings, all amounts due or to become due upon all Senior Indebtedness shall first be paid in full in cash, or other payments satisfactory to the holders of Senior Indebtedness before any payment is made on account of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) on the Securities (except payments made pursuant to Article 8 from monies deposited with the Trustee pursuant thereto prior to commencement of proceedings for such dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization); and upon any such dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of the Company or bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other proceeding, any payment by the Company, or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, to which the Holders of the Securities or the Trustee would be entitled, except for the provision of this Article 11, shall (except as aforesaid) be paid by the Company or by any receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, liquidating trustee, agent or other Person making such payment or distribution, or by the Holders of the Securities or by the Trustee under this Indenture if received by them or it, directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness (pro rata to such holders on the basis of the respective amounts of Senior Indebtedness held by such holders, or as otherwise required by law or a court order) or their Representative or

Representatives, as their respective interests may appear, to the extent necessary to pay all Senior Indebtedness in full in cash, or other payment satisfactory to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, after giving effect to any concurrent payment or distribution to or for the holders of Senior Indebtedness, before any payment or distribution is made to the Holders of the Securities or to the Trustee.

For purposes of this Article 11, the words "cash, property or securities" shall not be deemed to include shares of stock of the Company as reorganized or readjusted, or securities of the Company or any other corporation provided for by a plan of reorganization or readjustment, the payment of which is subordinated at least to the extent provided in this Article 11 with respect to the Securities to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness which may at the time be outstanding; provided that (i) the Senior Indebtedness is assumed by the new corporation, if any, resulting from any reorganization or readjustment, and (ii) the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness (other than leases which are not assumed by the Company or the new corporation, as the case may be) are not, without the consent of such holders, altered by such reorganization or readjustment. The consolidation of the Company with, or the merger of the Company into, another corporation or the liquidation or dissolution of the Company following the conveyance, transfer or lease of its property as an entirety, or substantially as an entirety, to another corporation upon the terms and conditions provided for in Article 5 shall not be deemed a dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization for the purposes of this Section 11.02 if such other corporation shall, as a part of such consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer or lease, comply with the conditions stated in Article 5.

In the event of the acceleration of the Securities because of an Event of Default, no payment or distribution shall be made to the Trustee or any Holder of Securities in respect of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) on the Securities by the Company (including, but not limited to, the Change in Control Purchase Price with respect to the Securities subject to purchase in accordance with Article 3 as provided in this Indenture), except payments and distributions made by the Trustee as permitted by Section 11.05, until all Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of Senior Indebtedness or such acceleration is rescinded in accordance with the terms of this Indenture. If payment of the Securities is accelerated because of an Event of Default, the Company shall promptly notify holders of Senior Indebtedness of such acceleration.

In the event that, notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any payment or distribution of assets of the Company of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities (including, without limitation, by way of setoff or otherwise), prohibited by the foregoing, shall be received by the Trustee or the Holders of the Securities before all Senior Indebtedness is paid in full, in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, or provision is made for such payment thereof in accordance with its terms in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, such payment or distribution shall be held in trust for the benefit of and shall be paid over or delivered to the holders of Senior Indebtedness or their Representative or Representatives, as their respective interests may appear, as calculated by the Company, for application to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all Senior Indebtedness in full, in cash or other

payment satisfactory to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, after giving effect to any concurrent payment or distribution to or for the holders of such Senior Indebtedness.

Nothing in this Section 11.02 shall apply to claims of, or payments to, the Trustee under or pursuant to Section 7.07. This Section 11.02 shall be subject to the further provisions of Section 11.05.

Section 11.03. Subrogation of Securities.

Subject to the payment in full, in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, of all Senior Indebtedness, the rights of the Holders of the Securities shall be subrogated to the extent of the payments or distributions made to the holders of such Senior Indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of this Article 11 (equally and ratably with the holders of all Indebtedness of the Company which by its express terms is subordinated to other indebtedness of the Company to substantially the same extent as the Securities are subordinated and is entitled to like rights of subrogation) to the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities of the Company applicable to the Senior Indebtedness until the Obligations on the Securities shall be paid in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of the Securities; and, for the purposes of such subrogation, no payments or distributions to the holders of the Senior Indebtedness of any cash, property or securities to which the Holders of the Securities or the Trustee would be entitled except for the provisions of this Article 11, and no payment over pursuant to the provisions of this Article 11, to or for the benefit of the holders of Senior Indebtedness by Holders of the Securities or the Trustee, shall, as between the Company, its creditors other than holders of Senior Indebtedness, and the Holders of the Securities, be deemed to be a payment by the Company to or on account of the Senior Indebtedness; and no payments or distributions of cash, property or securities to or for the benefit of the Holders of the Securities pursuant to the subrogation provisions of this Article 11, which would otherwise have been paid to the holders of Senior Indebtedness shall, as between the Company and its creditors other than Holders of the Securities, be deemed to be a payment by the Company to, or for, the account of the Securities. It is understood that the provisions of this Article 11 are and are intended solely for the purposes of defining the relative rights of the Holders of the Securities, on the one hand, and the holders of the Senior Indebtedness, on the other hand.

Nothing contained in this Article 11 or elsewhere in this Indenture or in the Securities is intended to or shall impair, as among the Company, its creditors other than the holders of Senior Indebtedness, and the Holders of the Securities, the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay to the Holders of the Securities the Obligations on the Securities as and when the same shall become due and payable in accordance with their terms, or is intended to or shall affect the relative rights of the Holders of the Securities and creditors of the Company other than the holders of the Senior Indebtedness, nor shall anything herein or therein prevent the Trustee or the Holder of any Security from exercising all remedies otherwise permitted by applicable law upon default under this Indenture, subject to the rights, if any, under this Article 11 of the holders of Senior Indebtedness in respect of cash, property or securities of the Company received upon the exercise of any such remedy.

Upon any payment or distribution of assets of the Company referred to in this Article 11, the Trustee, and the Holders of the Securities shall be entitled to rely upon any order or decree made by any court of competent jurisdiction in which such bankruptcy, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization proceedings are pending, or a certificate of the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, liquidating trustee, agent or other Person making such payment or distribution, delivered to the Trustee or to the Holders of the Securities, for the purpose of ascertaining the Persons entitled to participate in such distribution, the holders of the Senior Indebtedness and other indebtedness of the Company, the amount thereof or payable thereon and all other facts pertinent thereto or to this Article 11.

Section 11.04. Authorization to Effect Subordination.

Each Holder of a Security by the Holder's acceptance thereof authorizes and directs the Trustee on the Holder's behalf to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the subordination as provided in this Article 11 and appoints the Trustee to act as the Holder's attorney-in-fact for any and all such purposes. If the Trustee does not file a proper proof of claim or proof of debt in the form required in any proceeding referred to in Section 11.03 hereof at least 30 days before the expiration of the time to file such claim, the holders of any Senior Indebtedness or their representatives are hereby authorized to file an appropriate claim for and on behalf of the Holders of the Securities.

Section 11.05. Notice to Trustee.

The Company shall give prompt written notice in the form of an Officers' Certificate to a Responsible Officer of the Trustee and to any Paying Agent of any fact known to the Company which would prohibit the making of any payment of monies to or by the Trustee or any Paying Agent in respect of the Securities pursuant to the provisions of this Article 11. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article 11 or any other provision of this Indenture, the Trustee shall not be charged with knowledge of the existence of any facts which would prohibit the making of any payment of monies to or by the Trustee in respect of the Securities pursuant to the provisions of this Article 11, unless and until a Responsible Officer of the Trustee shall have received written notice thereof at the Corporate Trust Office from the Company (in the form of an Officers' Certificate) or a Representative or a Holder or Holders of Senior Indebtedness or from any trustee thereof; and before the receipt of any such written notice, the Trustee, subject to the provisions of Section 7.01, shall be entitled in all respects to assume that no such facts exist; provided that if on a date not less than three Business Days prior to the date upon which by the terms hereof any such monies may become payable for any purpose (including, without limitation, the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) on any Security) the Trustee shall not have received, with respect to such monies, the notice provided for in this Section 11.05, then, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding, the Trustee shall have full power and authority to receive such monies and to apply the same to the purpose for which they were received, and shall not be affected by any notice to the contrary which may be received by it on or after such prior date. Notwithstanding anything in this Article 11 to the contrary, nothing shall prevent any payment by the Trustee to the Holders of monies deposited with it pursuant to Article 8, and any such payment shall not be subject to the provisions of Article 11.

The Trustee, subject to the provisions of Section 7.01, shall be entitled to rely on the delivery to it of a written notice by a Representative or a Person representing himself to be a holder of Senior Indebtedness (or a trustee on behalf of such holder) to establish that such notice has been given by a Representative or a holder of Senior Indebtedness or a trustee on behalf of any such holder or holders. In the event that the Trustee determines in good faith that further evidence is required with respect to the right of any Person as a holder of Senior Indebtedness to participate in any payment or distribution pursuant to this Article 11, the Trustee may request such Person to furnish evidence to the reasonable satisfaction of the Trustee as to the amount of Senior Indebtedness held by such Person, the extent to which such Person is entitled to participate in such payment or distribution and any other facts pertinent to the rights of such Person under this Article 11, and if such evidence is not furnished the Trustee may defer any payment to such Person pending judicial determination as to the right of such Person to receive such payment.

Section 11.06. Trustee's Relation to Senior Indebtedness.

The Trustee in its individual capacity shall be entitled to all of the rights set forth in this Article 11 in respect of any Senior Indebtedness at any time held by it, to the same extent as any other holder of Senior Indebtedness, and nothing in Section 7.11 or elsewhere in this Indenture shall deprive the Trustee of any of its rights as such holder.

With respect to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, the Trustee undertakes to perform or to observe only such of its covenants and obligations as are specifically set forth in this Article 11, and no implied covenants or obligations with respect to the holders of Senior Indebtedness shall be read into this Indenture against the Trustee. The Trustee shall not be deemed to owe any fiduciary duty to the holders of Senior Indebtedness and, the Trustee shall not be liable to any holder of Senior Indebtedness or any Representative if it shall pay over or deliver to Holders of Securities, the Company or any other Person money or assets to which any holder of Senior Indebtedness or such Representative shall be entitled by virtue of this Article 11 or otherwise.

Section 11.07. No Impairment of Subordination.

No right of any present or future holder of any Senior Indebtedness to enforce subordination as herein provided shall at any time in any way be prejudiced or impaired by any act or failure to act on the part of the Company or by any act or failure to act, in good faith, by any such holder, or by any noncompliance by the Company with the terms, provisions and covenants of this Indenture, regardless of any knowledge thereof which any such holder may have or otherwise be charged with.

Section 11.08. Certain Conversions Deemed Payment.

For the purposes of this Article 11 only, (1) the issuance and delivery of junior securities upon conversion of Securities in accordance with Article 10 shall not be deemed to constitute a payment or distribution on account of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) on Securities or on account of the purchase or other acquisition of Securities, and (2) the payment, issuance or delivery of cash

(except in satisfaction of fractional shares pursuant to Section 10.02), property or securities (other than junior securities) upon conversion of a Security shall be deemed to constitute payment on account of the principal of such Security. For the purposes of this Section 11.08, the term “junior securities” means (a) shares of any stock of any class of the Company, or (b) securities of the Company which are subordinated in right of payment to all Senior Indebtedness which may be outstanding at the time of issuance or delivery of such securities to substantially the same extent as, or to a greater extent than, the Securities are so subordinated as provided in this Article. Nothing contained in this Article 11 or elsewhere in this Indenture or in the Securities is intended to or shall impair, as among the Company, its creditors other than holders of Senior Indebtedness and the Holders, the right, which is absolute and unconditional, of the Holder of any Security to convert such Security in accordance with Article 10.

Section 11.09. Article Applicable to Paying Agents.

If at any time any Paying Agent other than the Trustee shall have been appointed by the Company and be then acting hereunder, the term “Trustee” as used in this Article shall (unless the context otherwise requires) be construed as extending to and including such Paying Agent within its meaning as fully for all intents and purposes as if such Paying Agent were named in this Article in addition to or in place of the Trustee; provided, however, that the first paragraph of Section 11.05 shall not apply to the Company or any Affiliate of the Company if it or such Affiliate acts as Paying Agent.

Section 11.10. Senior Indebtedness Entitled to Rely.

The holders of Senior Indebtedness (including, without limitation, Designated Senior Indebtedness) shall have the right to rely upon this Article 11, and no amendment or modification of the provisions contained herein shall diminish the rights of such holders unless such holders shall have agreed in writing thereto.

ARTICLE 12

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 12.01. Trust Indenture Act Controls.

If any provision of this Indenture limits, qualifies, or conflicts with another provision which is required to be included in this Indenture by the TIA, the required provision shall control.

Section 12.02. Notices.

Any request, demand, authorization, notice, waiver, consent or communication shall be in writing and delivered in person or mailed by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows, or transmitted by facsimile transmission (confirmed orally) to the following facsimile numbers:

if to the Company, to:

Griffon Corporation
100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, New York 11753
Attention: Secretary
Facsimile No.: (516) 822-4824

if to the Trustee, to:

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company
59 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038
Attn: Corporate Trust Department
Facsimile No.: (718) 331-1852

The Company or the Trustee by notice given to the other in the manner provided above may designate additional or different addresses for subsequent notices or communications.

Any notice or communication given to a Holder shall be mailed to the Holder, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, at the Holder's address as it appears on the registration books of the Registrar and shall be sufficiently given if so mailed within the time prescribed.

Failure to mail a notice or communication to a Holder or any defect in it shall not affect its sufficiency with respect to other Holders. If a notice or communication is mailed in the manner provided above, it is duly given, whether or not received by the addressee.

If the Company mails a notice or communication to the Holders, it shall mail a copy to the Trustee and each Registrar, Paying Agent, Conversion Agent or co-registrar.

Section 12.03. Communication by Holders with Other Holders.

Holders may communicate pursuant to TIA Section 312(b) with other Holders with respect to their rights under this Indenture or the Securities. The Company, the Trustee, the Registrar, the Paying Agent, the Conversion Agent and anyone else shall have the protection of TIA Section 312(c).

Section 12.04. Certificate and Opinion as to Conditions Precedent.

Upon any request or application by the Company to the Trustee to take or refrain from taking any action under this Indenture, the Company shall furnish to the Trustee:

(a) an Officers' Certificate stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent, if any, provided for in this Indenture relating to the proposed action have been complied with; and

- (b) an Opinion of Counsel stating that, in the opinion of such counsel, all such conditions precedent have been complied with.

In any case where several matters are required to be certified by, or covered by an opinion of, any specified Person, it is not necessary that all such matters be certified by, or covered by the opinion of, only one such Person, or that they be so certified or covered by only one document, but one such Person may certify or give an opinion with respect to some matters and one or more other such eligible and qualified Persons as to other matters, and any such Person may certify or give an opinion as to such matters in one or several documents.

Any certificate or opinion of an officer of the Company may be based, insofar as it relates to legal matters, upon a certificate or opinion of, or representations by, counsel, unless such officer knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care should know, that the certificate or opinion or representations with respect to the matters upon which his or her certificate or opinion is based are erroneous. Any such certificate or Opinion of Counsel may be based, insofar as it relates to factual matters, upon a certificate or opinion of, or representations by, an officer or officers of the Company stating the information on which counsel is relying unless such counsel knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care should know, that the certificate or opinion or representations with respect to such matters are erroneous.

Where any Person is required to make, give or execute two or more applications, requests, consents, certificates, statements, opinions or other instruments under this Indenture, they may, but need not, be consolidated and form one instrument.

Section 12.05. Statements Required in Certificate or Opinion.

Each Officers' Certificate or Opinion of Counsel with respect to compliance with a covenant or condition provided for in this Indenture shall include:

- (a) a statement that each person making such Officers' Certificate or Opinion of Counsel has read such covenant or condition;
- (b) a brief statement as to the nature and scope of the examination or investigation upon which the statements or opinions contained in such Officers' Certificate or Opinion of Counsel are based;
- (c) a statement that, in the opinion of each such person, he has made such examination or investigation as is necessary to enable such person to express an informed opinion as to whether or not such covenant or condition has been complied with; and
- (d) a statement that, in the opinion of such person, such covenant or condition has been complied with.

Section 12.06. Separability Clause.

In case any provision in this Indenture or in the Securities shall be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

Section 12.07. Rules by Trustee, Paying Agent, Conversion Agent and Registrar.

The Trustee may make reasonable rules for action by or a meeting of Holders. The Registrar, the Conversion Agent and the Paying Agent may make reasonable rules for their functions.

Section 12.08. Legal Holidays.

A “Legal Holiday” is any day other than a Business Day. If any specified date (including a date for giving notice) is a Legal Holiday, the action shall be taken on the next succeeding day that is not a Legal Holiday, and, if the action to be taken on such date is a payment in respect of the Securities, no interest (including Contingent Interest or Liquidated Damages, if any), shall accrue for the intervening period.

Section 12.09. Governing Law.

THIS INDENTURE AND EACH NOTE SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACT MADE UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AND FOR ALL PURPOSES SHALL BE CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Section 12.10. No Recourse Against Others.

A director, officer, employee or stockholder, as such, of the Company shall not have any liability for any obligations of the Company under the Securities or for any claim based on, in respect of or by reason of such obligations or their creation. By accepting a Security, each Securityholder shall waive and release all such liability. The waiver and release shall be part of the consideration for the issue of the Securities.

Section 12.11. Successors.

All agreements of the Company in this Indenture and the Securities shall bind its successor. All agreements of the Trustee in this Indenture shall bind its successor.

Section 12.12. Multiple Originals.

This Indenture may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, but such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have executed this Indenture on behalf of the respective parties hereto as of the date first above written.

GRIFFON CORPORATION

By: _____
Name: Edward I. Kramer
Title: Vice President, Administration and
Secretary

AMERICAN STOCK TRANSFER & TRUST
COMPANY, as Trustee

By: _____
Name: Herbert J. Lemmer
Title: Vice President

{FORM OF FACE OF GLOBAL SECURITY}

[INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING LEGEND ON RESTRICTED SECURITIES:

THIS SECURITY (OR ITS PREDECESSOR) WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED IN A TRANSACTION EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE "SECURITIES ACT"), AND THIS SECURITY MAY NOT BE OFFERED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH REGISTRATION OR AN APPLICABLE EXEMPTION THEREFROM. EACH PURCHASER OF THIS SECURITY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE SELLER OF THIS SECURITY MAY BE RELYING ON THE EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 OF THE SECURITIES ACT PROVIDED BY RULE 144A THEREUNDER. THE HOLDER OF THIS SECURITY AGREES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMPANY THAT (A) THIS SECURITY MAY BE OFFERED, RESOLD, PLEDGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED, ONLY (I) TO A PERSON WHOM THE SELLER REASONABLY BELIEVES IS A QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYER (AS DEFINED IN RULE 144A UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT) IN A TRANSACTION MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF RULE 144A, (II) PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT PROVIDED BY RULE 144 THEREUNDER (IF AVAILABLE) OR (III) PURSUANT TO AN EFFECTIVE REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT, IN EACH OF CASES (I) THROUGH (III) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND (B) THE HOLDER WILL, AND EACH SUBSEQUENT HOLDER IS REQUIRED TO, NOTIFY ANY SUBSEQUENT PURCHASER OF THIS SECURITY FROM IT OF THE RESALE RESTRICTIONS REFERRED TO IN (A) ABOVE.

THE FOREGOING LEGEND MAY BE REMOVED FROM THIS SECURITY ON SATISFACTION OF THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE INDENTURE.]

THIS SECURITY WAS ISSUED WITH ORIGINAL ISSUE DISCOUNT FOR UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. FOR PURPOSES OF SECTIONS 1273 AND 1275 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, THE ISSUE PRICE OF EACH SECURITY IS \$1,000 PER \$1,000 OF PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, THE ISSUE DATE IS JUNE 21, 2004 AND THE COMPARABLE YIELD IS 8.50% PER ANNUM. HOLDERS OF THIS SECURITY MAY OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF ORIGINAL ISSUE DISCOUNT, YIELD TO MATURITY AND THE PROJECTED PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THIS SECURITY BY SUBMITTING A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SUCH INFORMATION TO: GRIFFON CORPORATION, 100 JERICHO QUADRANGLE, JERICHO, NEW YORK 11753, ATTN.: SECRETARY, SUCH INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE, BEGINNING NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS AFTER THE ISSUE DATE, PROMPTLY UPON REQUEST.

UNLESS THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY TO GRIFFON CORPORATION (THE "COMPANY") OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF

TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY CERTIFICATE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR IN SUCH OTHER NAME AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY (AND ANY PAYMENT HEREON IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL SINCE THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.

TRANSFERS OF THIS GLOBAL SECURITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS TO NOMINEES OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, OR TO A SUCCESSOR THEREOF OR SUCH SUCCESSOR'S NOMINEE AND TRANSFERS OF PORTIONS OF THIS GLOBAL SECURITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE TWO OF THE INDENTURE REFERRED TO ON THE REVERSE HEREOF.

GRIFFON CORPORATION

4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023

No.:

CUSIP:

Issue Date:

Principal Amount:

GRIFFON CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, promises to pay to Cede & Co. or registered assigns, the principal amount as set forth on Schedule I hereto, on July 18, 2023, subject to the further provisions of this Security set forth on the reverse hereof, which further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as if set forth at this place. This Security is convertible as specified on the other side of this Security.

Interest Payment Dates: January 18 and July 18, commencing July 18, 2004.

Record Dates: January 1 and July 1, commencing July 1, 2004.

Dated:

GRIFFON CORPORATION

By: _____

Name:

Title:

TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as Trustee, certifies that this is one of the Securities referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

Dated:

{FORM OF REVERSE SIDE OF NOTE}

GRIFFON CORPORATION

4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023

(1) Interest.

This Security shall accrue interest at an initial rate of 4.0% per annum. The Company promises to pay interest on the Securities in cash semiannually on each January 18 and July 18, commencing July 18, 2004, to Holders of record on the immediately preceding January 1 and July 1, respectively. Interest on the Securities will accrue from the most recent date to which interest has been paid, or if no interest has been paid, from the Issue Date, until the principal amount is paid or duly made available for payment. The Company will pay interest on any overdue principal amount at the interest rate borne by the Securities at the time such interest on the overdue principal amount accrues, compounded semiannually, and it shall pay interest on overdue installments of interest and Liquidated Damages, if any (without regard to any applicable grace period), at the same interest rate, compounded semiannually. Interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) on the Securities will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months.

The Company shall pay additional interest (“Contingent Interest”) to the Holders during any six-month period (a “Contingent Interest Period”) from July 18 to, but excluding, January 18 and from January 18 to, but excluding, July 18, with the initial six-month period commencing July 18, 2010, if the average of the Security Trading Price for the five Trading Days ending on the third Trading Day immediately preceding the first day of the applicable Contingent Interest Period (the “Contingent Interest Average Trading Price”) equals \$1,200 or more. The amount of Contingent Interest payable per \$1,000 principal amount of Securities in respect of any Contingent Interest Period shall equal 0.50% per annum on the Contingent Interest Average Trading Price. The Company will pay Contingent Interest, if any, in the same manner as it will pay interest as described above.

Upon determination that Holders will be entitled to receive Contingent Interest for a Contingent Interest Period, on or prior to the first day of such Contingent Interest Period, the Company shall issue a press release.

(2) Method of Payment.

The Company will pay interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), on this Security to the Person who is the registered Holder of this Security at the close of business on January 1 or July 1, as the case may be, immediately preceding the related interest payment date. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Indenture, the Company will make payments in respect of the Redemption Price, Purchase Price, Change in Control Purchase Price and the principal amount at Stated Maturity, as the case may be, to the Holder who surrenders a Security to a Paying Agent to collect such payments in respect of the Security. The Company will pay cash amounts in money of the United States that at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts. However, the Company may pay interest

(including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), the Redemption Price, Purchase Price, Change in Control Purchase Price and the principal amount at Stated Maturity, as the case may be, by check or wire payable in such money; provided, however, that a Holder holding Securities with an aggregate principal amount in excess of \$1,000,000 may request payment by wire transfer in immediately available funds to an account in North America at the election of such Holder. The Company may mail an interest check to the Holder's registered address. Notwithstanding the foregoing, so long as this Security is registered in the name of a Depository or its nominee, all payments hereon shall be made by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the account of the Depository or its nominee.

(3) Paying Agent, Conversion Agent and Registrar.

Initially, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company (the "Trustee") will act as Paying Agent, Conversion Agent and Registrar. The Company may appoint and change any Paying Agent, Conversion Agent or Registrar without notice, other than notice to the Trustee; provided that the Company will maintain at least one Paying Agent having an office or agency in the State of New York, City of New York, Borough of Manhattan, which shall initially be an office or agency of the Trustee. The Company or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their Affiliates may act as Paying Agent, Conversion Agent or Registrar.

(4) Indenture.

The Company issued the Securities under an Indenture dated as of June 21, 2004 (the "Indenture"), between the Company and the Trustee. The terms of the Securities include those stated in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as in effect from time to time (the "TIA"). Capitalized terms used herein and not defined herein have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Indenture. The Securities are subject to all such terms, and Holders are referred to the Indenture and the TIA for a statement of those terms.

The Securities are general unsecured obligations of the Company limited to up to \$130,000,000 aggregate principal amount. The Indenture does not limit other indebtedness of the Company, secured or unsecured.

(5) Redemption at the Option of the Company.

No sinking fund is provided for the Securities. Beginning on July 26, 2010 and during the periods thereafter to maturity, the Securities are redeemable as a whole, or from time to time in part, in any integral multiple of \$1,000, at any time at the option of the Company at a Redemption Price equal to 100% of the principal amount, together with accrued but unpaid interest, thereon (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), up to but not including the Redemption Date; provided that, if the Redemption Date is on or after an interest record date but on or prior to the related interest payment date, interest will be payable to the Holders in whose names the Securities are registered at the close of business on the relevant record date.

(6) Purchase By the Company at the Option of the Holder; Purchase at the Option of the Holder Upon a Change in Control.

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Indenture, the Company shall become obligated to purchase, at the option of the Holder, all or any portion of the Securities held by such Holder, in any integral multiple of \$1,000, on July 18, 2010, July 18, 2013 and July 18, 2018 (each, a "Purchase Date") at a purchase price per Security equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount of the Security (the "Purchase Price"), together with accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, up to but not including the Purchase Date upon delivery of a Purchase Notice containing the information set forth in the Indenture, together with the Securities subject thereto, at any time from the opening of business on the date that is 30 Business Days prior to such Purchase Date until the close of business on the Business Day prior to such Purchase Date, and upon delivery of the Securities to the Paying Agent by the Holder as set forth in the Indenture.

At the option of the Holder and subject to the terms and conditions of the Indenture, the Company shall become obligated to purchase the Securities held by such Holder after the occurrence of a Change in Control of the Company for a Change in Control Purchase Price equal to 100% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), thereon, up to but not including the Change in Control Purchase Date which Change in Control Purchase Price shall be paid in cash (provided that, if the Change in Control Purchase Date is on or after an interest record date but on or prior to the related interest payment date, accrued but unpaid interest will be payable to the Holders in whose names the Securities are registered at the close of business on the relevant record date). Holders have the right to withdraw any Purchase Notice or Change in Control Purchase Notice, as the case may be, by delivering to the Paying Agent a written notice of withdrawal in accordance with the provisions of the Indenture.

If cash sufficient to pay the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, as the case may be, and accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), on all Securities or portions thereof to be purchased as of the Purchase Date or the Change in Control Purchase Date, as the case may be, is deposited with the Paying Agent on the Business Day prior to the Purchase Date or the Change in Control Purchase Date, interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), shall cease to accrue on such Securities (or portions thereof) as of such Purchase Date or Change in Control Purchase Date, and the Holder thereof shall have no other rights as such other than the right to receive the Purchase Price or Change in Control Purchase Price, as the case may be, and interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), upon surrender of such Security.

(7) Notice of Redemption.

Notice of redemption pursuant to paragraph 5 of this Security will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the Redemption Date to each Holder of Securities to be redeemed at the Holder's registered address. If money sufficient to pay the Redemption Price of all Securities (or portions thereof) to be redeemed on the Redemption Date is deposited with the Paying Agent prior to or on the Redemption Date, immediately after such Redemption

Date, interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any) cease to accrue on such Securities or portions thereof. Securities in denominations larger than \$1,000 of principal amount may be redeemed in part but only in integral multiples of \$1,000 of principal amount.

(8) Conversion.

Subject to the provisions of Article 10 of the Indenture, a Holder of a Security may convert such Security into shares of Common Stock of the Company if any of the conditions specified in paragraphs (a) through (e) of Section 10.01 of the Indenture is satisfied; provided, however, that if such Security is called for redemption, the conversion right will terminate at the close of business on the second Business Day immediately preceding the Redemption Date of such Security (unless the Company shall default in making the redemption payment when due, in which case the conversion right shall terminate at the close of business on the date such Default is cured and such Security is redeemed). The initial conversion price is \$24.13 per share, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances as described in the Indenture (the "Conversion Price"). The number of shares issuable upon conversion of a Security is determined by dividing the principal amount of Securities converted by the Conversion Price in effect on the Conversion Date. In the event of a conversion of a Security, the Company has the option to deliver the Cash Conversion Price to the Holder of the Security surrendered for such conversion as provided in Section 10.02 of the Indenture. Upon conversion, no adjustment for interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), or dividends will be made. No fractional shares will be issued upon conversion; in lieu thereof, an amount will be paid in cash based upon the current market price (as defined in the Indenture) of the Common Stock on the last Trading Day prior to the date of conversion.

To convert a Security, a Holder must (a) complete and sign the conversion notice set forth below and deliver such notice to the Conversion Agent, (b) surrender the Security to the Conversion Agent, (c) furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents if required by the Registrar or the Conversion Agent, (d) pay any transfer or similar tax, if required and (e) if the Security is held in book-entry form, complete and deliver to the Depository appropriate instructions pursuant to the Depository's book-entry conversion programs. If a Holder surrenders a Security for conversion between the record date for the payment of an installment of interest and the related interest payment date, the Security must be accompanied by payment of an amount equal to the interest (including Contingent Interest and Liquidated Damages, if any), payable on such interest payment date on the principal amount of the Security or portion thereof then converted; provided, however, that no such payment shall be required if such Security has been called for redemption on a Redemption Date within the period between and including such record date and such interest payment date, or if such Security is surrendered for conversion on the interest payment date. A Holder may convert a portion of a Security equal to \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof.

A Security in respect of which a Holder has delivered a Purchase Notice or a Change of Control Purchase Notice exercising the option of such Holder to require the Company to repurchase such Security as provided in Section 3.08 or Section 3.09, respectively, of the Indenture may be converted only if such notice of exercise is withdrawn in accordance with the terms of the Indenture.

(9) Denominations; Transfer; Exchange.

The Securities are in fully registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 of principal amount and integral multiples of \$1,000. A Holder may transfer or exchange Securities in accordance with the Indenture. The Registrar may require a Holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents and to pay any taxes and fees required by law or permitted by the Indenture. The Registrar need not transfer or exchange any Securities selected for redemption (except, in the case of a Security to be redeemed in part, the portion of the Security not to be redeemed) or any Securities in respect of which a Purchase Notice or a Change in Control Purchase Notice has been given and not withdrawn (except, in the case of a Security to be purchased in part, the portion of the Security not to be purchased) or any Securities for a period of 15 days before the mailing of a notice of redemption of Securities to be redeemed.

(10) Persons Deemed Owners.

The registered Holder of this Security may be treated as the owner of this Security for all purposes.

(11) Unclaimed Money or Securities.

The Trustee and the Paying Agent shall return to the Company upon written request any money or securities held by them for the payment of any amount with respect to the Securities that remains unclaimed for two years, subject to applicable unclaimed property law. After return to the Company, Holders entitled to the money or securities must look to the Company, for payment as general creditors unless an applicable abandoned property law designates another person.

(12) Amendment; Waiver.

Subject to certain exceptions set forth in the Indenture, (i) the Indenture or the Securities may be amended with the written consent of the Holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding and (ii) certain Defaults may be waived with the written consent of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities at the time outstanding. Subject to certain exceptions set forth in the Indenture, without the consent of any Securityholder, the Company and the Trustee may amend the Indenture or the Securities (i) to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, or make any other change that does not adversely affect the rights of any Holder, (ii) to comply with Article 5 or Section 10.12 of the Indenture, (iii) to make provisions with respect to the conversion right of Holders pursuant to the requirements of Section 10.12 and Section 10.01 of the Indenture, (iv) to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment under the Indenture by a successor Trustee, or (v) to comply with the provisions of the TIA or any requirement of the SEC in connection with the qualification of the Indenture under the TIA.

(13) Defaults and Remedies.

Except as set forth in the Indenture, if an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of Securities then outstanding may declare all the Securities to be due and payable in the manner, at the time and with the effect provided in the Indenture. Holders of Securities may not enforce the Indenture or the Securities except as provided in the Indenture. The Trustee is not obligated to enforce the Indenture or the Securities unless it has received indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it. The Indenture permits, subject to certain limitations therein provided, Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities then outstanding to direct the Trustee in its exercise of any trust or power. The Trustee may withhold from Holders of Securities notice of any continuing Default or Event of Default (except a Default in payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest when due, for any reason, or a Default in compliance with Article 5 of the Indenture) if it determines in good faith that withholding notice is in the interest of Holders.

(14) Trustee Dealings with the Company.

Subject to certain limitations imposed by the TIA, the Trustee under the Indenture, in its individual or any other capacity, may become the owner or pledgee of Securities and may otherwise deal with and collect obligations owed to it by the Company or its Affiliates and may otherwise deal with the Company or its Affiliates with the same rights it would have if it were not Trustee.

(15) No Recourse Against Others.

A director, officer, employee or shareholder, as such, of the Company shall not have any liability for any obligations of the Company under the Securities or the Indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of or by reason of such obligations or their creation. By accepting a Security, each Securityholder waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issue of the Securities.

(16) Ranking.

The Securities shall be direct, unsecured subordinated obligations of the Company shall rank pari passu with the Company's 4% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2023 and shall and be subject to the provisions regarding subordination contained in Article 11 of the Indenture. The Securities are not guaranteed.

(17) Subordination.

The Securities are subordinated in right of payment, in the manner and to the extent set forth in the Indenture, to the prior payment in full in cash or Cash Equivalents of all Obligations on Senior Indebtedness of the Company, whether outstanding on the date of the Indenture or thereafter created, incurred, assumed or guaranteed. Each Holder by its acceptance hereof agrees to be bound by such provisions and authorizes and expressly directs the Trustee, on its behalf, to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the subordination provided for in the Indenture and appoints the Trustee its attorney-in-fact for such purposes.

(18) Authentication.

This Security shall not be valid until an authorized signatory of the Trustee manually signs the Trustee's Certificate of Authentication on the other side of this Security.

(19) Abbreviations.

Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Securityholder or an assignee, such as TEN COM ("Tenants In Common"), TEN ENT ("Tenants By The Entireties"), JT TEN ("Joint Tenants With Right Of Survivorship And Not As Tenants In Common"), CUST ("Custodian") and U/G/M/A ("Uniform Gift To Minors Act").

(20) Governing Law.

THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK SHALL GOVERN THE INDENTURE AND THIS SECURITY.

(21) CUSIP Numbers.

Pursuant to a recommendation promulgated by the Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures, the Company has caused CUSIP numbers to be printed on the Securities as a convenience to the Holders of the Securities. No representation is made as to the accuracy of such numbers as printed on the Securities and reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers printed hereon.

ASSIGNMENT FORM

To assign this Security, fill in the form below

I or we assign and transfer this Security to

(Insert assignee's soc. sec. or tax ID no.)

(Print or type assignee's name, address and zip code)

and irrevocably appoint _____ agent to transfer this Security on the books of the Company. The agent may substitute another to act for him.

Date: _____

Signature Guaranteed

Participant in a Recognized Signature
Guarantee Medallion Program

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

CONVERSION NOTICE

To convert this Security into Common Stock of the Company, check the box

To convert only part of this Security, state the principal amount to be converted (which must be \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000):

If you want the stock certificate made out in another person's name fill in the form below:

(Insert the other person's soc. sec. tax ID no.)

(Print or type other person's name, address and zip code)

Your Signature: _____

(Sign exactly as your name appears on the other side of this Security)

FORM OF PURCHASE NOTICE

To: Griffon Corporation

The undersigned registered holder of this Security requests and instructs the Company to purchase this Security, or the portion hereof (which is \$1,000 principal amount or a multiple thereof) designated below, on the July 18 specified below, in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in paragraph 6 of this Security and the Indenture referred to in this Security and directs that the check in payment for this Security or the portion thereof and any Securities representing the portion of principal amount hereof not to be so purchased, be issued and delivered to the registered holder hereof unless a different name has been indicated below. If any portion of this Security not purchased is to be issued in the name of a Person other than the undersigned, the undersigned shall pay all transfer taxes payable with respect thereto.

Dated:

Signature(s)

Fill in for registration of Securities
not purchased if to be issued other
than to and in the name of registered holder:

(Name)

(Street Address)

(City, state and zip code)

Please print name and address

principal amount to be purchased (if less than all): \$,000

date of requested purchase: July 18, 20
(specify either July 18, 2010, 2013 or 2018)

FORM OF OPTION TO ELECT REPURCHASE UPON A CHANGE IN CONTROL

To: Griffon Corporation

The undersigned registered holder of this Security hereby acknowledges receipt of a notice from Griffon Corporation (the "Company") as to the occurrence of a Change In Control with respect to the Company and requests and instructs the Company to repurchase this Security, or the portion hereof (which is \$1,000 principal amount or a multiple thereof) designated below, in accordance with the terms of the Indenture referred to in this Security and directs that the check in payment for this Security or the portion thereof and any Securities representing any unrepurchased principal amount hereof, be issued and delivered to the registered holder hereof unless a different name has been indicated below. If any portion of this Security not repurchased is to be issued in the name of a Person other than the undersigned, the undersigned shall pay all transfer taxes payable with respect thereto.

Dated:

Signature(s)

Fill in for registration of Securities not repurchased if to be issued other than to and in the name of registered holder:

(Name)

(Street Address)

(City, state and zip code)

Please print name and address

principal amount to be purchased (if less than all): \$,000

SCHEDULE I

GRIFFON CORPORATION
4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023

Date	Principal Amount	Notation
<hr/>		
A-1-15		
<hr/>		

{Form of Certificated Security}

[INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING LEGEND ON RESTRICTED SECURITIES:

THIS SECURITY (OR ITS PREDECESSOR) WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED IN A TRANSACTION EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE "SECURITIES ACT"), AND THIS SECURITY MAY NOT BE OFFERED, SOLD OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH REGISTRATION OR AN APPLICABLE EXEMPTION THEREFROM. EACH PURCHASER OF THIS SECURITY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE SELLER OF THIS SECURITY MAY BE RELYING ON THE EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 OF THE SECURITIES ACT PROVIDED BY RULE 144A THEREUNDER. THE HOLDER OF THIS SECURITY AGREES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMPANY THAT (A) THIS SECURITY MAY BE OFFERED, RESOLD, PLEDGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED, ONLY (I) TO A PERSON WHOM THE SELLER REASONABLY BELIEVES IS A QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONAL BUYER (AS DEFINED IN RULE 144A UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT) IN A TRANSACTION MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF RULE 144A, (II) PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT PROVIDED BY RULE 144 THEREUNDER (IF AVAILABLE) OR (III) PURSUANT TO AN EFFECTIVE REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT, IN EACH OF CASES (I) THROUGH (III) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE SECURITIES LAWS OF ANY STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND (B) THE HOLDER WILL, AND EACH SUBSEQUENT HOLDER IS REQUIRED TO, NOTIFY ANY PURCHASER OF THIS SECURITY FROM IT OF THE RESALE RESTRICTIONS REFERRED TO IN (A) ABOVE.

THE FOREGOING LEGEND MAY BE REMOVED FROM THIS SECURITY ON SATISFACTION OF THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE INDENTURE.]

THIS SECURITY WAS ISSUED WITH ORIGINAL ISSUE DISCOUNT FOR U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. FOR PURPOSES OF SECTIONS 1273 AND 1275 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, THE ISSUE PRICE OF EACH SECURITY IS \$1,000 PER \$1,000 OF PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, THE ISSUE DATE IS JUNE 21, 2004 AND THE COMPARABLE YIELD IS 8.50% PER ANNUM. HOLDERS OF THIS SECURITY MAY OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF ORIGINAL ISSUE DISCOUNT, YIELD TO MATURITY AND THE PROJECTED PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THIS SECURITY BY SUBMITTING A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SUCH INFORMATION TO: GRIFFON CORPORATION, 100 JERICHO QUADRANGLE, JERICHO, NEW YORK 11753, ATTN.: SECRETARY, SUCH INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE, BEGINNING NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS AFTER THE ISSUE DATE, PROMPTLY UPON REQUEST.

GRIFFON CORPORATION

4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023

No.:

CUSIP:

Issue Date:

Principal Amount:

GRIFFON CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, promises to pay to _____ or registered assigns, the principal amount of _____, on July 18, 2023, subject to the further provisions of this Security set forth on the reverse hereof, which further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as if set forth at this place. This Security is convertible as specified on the other side of this Security.

Interest Payment Dates: January 18 and July 18, commencing July 18, 2004

Record Dates: January 1 and July 1, commencing July 1, 2004

Dated:

GRIFFON CORPORATION

By: _____

Name:

Title:

TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as Trustee, certifies that this is one of the Securities referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

Dated:

{FORM OF REVERSE SIDE IS IDENTICAL TO EXHIBIT A-1}

A-2-4

EXHIBIT B

Transfer Certificate

In connection with any transfer of any of the Securities within the period prior to the expiration of the holding period applicable to the sales thereof under Rule 144(k) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") (or any successor provision), the undersigned registered owner of this Security hereby certifies with respect to \$ _____ principal amount of the above-captioned Securities presented or surrendered on the date hereof (the "Surrendered Securities") for registration of transfer, or for exchange or conversion where the securities deliverable upon such exchange or conversion are to be registered in a name other than that of the undersigned registered owner (each such transaction being a "transfer"), that such transfer complies with the restrictive legend set forth on the face of the Surrendered Securities for the reason checked below:

- A transfer of the Surrendered Securities is made to the Company or any subsidiaries; or
- The transfer of the Surrendered Securities complies with Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"); or
- The transfer of the Surrendered Securities is pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act; or
- The transfer of the Surrendered Securities is pursuant to another available exemption from the registration requirement of the Securities Act.

The undersigned confirms that, to the undersigned's knowledge, such Securities are not being transferred to an "affiliate" of the Company as defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act (an "Affiliate").

Date: _____ Signature(s) _____

(If the registered owner is a corporation, partnership or fiduciary, the title of the Person signing on behalf of such registered owner must be stated.)

Signature Guaranteed

Participant in a Recognized Signature
Guarantee Medallion Program

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE (this "Supplemental Indenture") dated as of May 20, 2004, between GRIFFON CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and AMERICAN STOCK TRANSFER AND TRUST COMPANY, a New York banking corporation, as trustee under the indenture referred to below (the "Trustee").

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS the Company has delivered to the Trustee an Indenture (the "Indenture") dated as of July 18, 2003, providing for the issuance of 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2023 of the Company (the "Securities");

WHEREAS the Indenture provides that the Company may amend the Indenture without the consent of Holders to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, or to make any other change that does not adversely affect the rights of any Securityholder; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 9.01 of the Indenture, the Trustee and the Company are authorized to execute and deliver this Supplemental Indenture;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Company and the Trustee mutually covenant and agree for the equal and ratable benefit of the holders of the Securities as follows:

1. *Capitalized Terms.* Capitalized terms used herein but not defined shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

2. *Amendment of Section 10.01(c).* Section 10.01(c) of the Indenture is hereby replaced in its entirety with the following provision (added language in italics):

"(c) the conversion of such Security occurs during the five Trading Day period immediately after a period of five consecutive Trading Days in which the Security Trading Price for each Trading Day in such period was less than 95% of the product of the Closing Price per share of Common Stock on such Trading Day multiplied by the number of shares of Common Stock issuable (assuming satisfaction of conditions to conversion) upon conversion of \$1,000 in principal amount of the Securities (the "Conversion Rate"); *provided, that, with respect to any such conversion, if the Closing Price of the Common Stock as of such date of conversion is greater than the Effective Conversion Price but less than 120% of the Effective Conversion Price, then Holders shall receive in such conversion (a "Principal Value Conversion"), in lieu of Common Stock based on the Conversion Rate, a number of Shares of Common Stock equal to the principal amount of such Holder's Security plus accrued but unpaid interest (including Contingent Interest), if any, as of the conversion date, divided by the Principal Value Conversion Share Price. The Principal Value Conversion Share Price shall be equal to the greater of (i) the Effective Conversion Price on the conversion date and (ii) the Closing Price of Common Stock on the conversion date. The Company shall deliver such Common Stock no later than the third Business Day following the determination of the Principal Value Conversion Share Price. The "Effective Conversion Price" as of any date of determination shall be equal to \$1,000 divided by the Conversion Rate as of the eighth Trading Day prior to the date of determination.*"

3. *Ratification of Indenture; Supplemental Indenture Part of Indenture.* Except as expressly amended hereby, the Indenture is in all respects ratified and confirmed and all the terms, conditions and provisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect. This Supplemental Indenture shall form a part of the Indenture for all purposes, and every holder of Securities heretofore or hereafter authenticated and delivered shall be bound hereby. In the event of a conflict between the terms and conditions of the Indenture and the terms and conditions of this Supplemental Indenture, then the terms and conditions of this Supplemental Indenture shall prevail.

4. *Governing Law.* **THIS SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BUT**

WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO APPLICABLE PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICTS OF LAW TO THE EXTENT THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF ANOTHER JURISDICTION WOULD BE REQUIRED THEREBY.

5. *Trustee Makes No Representation.* The statements herein are deemed to be those of the Company and not those of the Trustee. The Trustee makes no representation as to the validity or sufficiency of this Supplemental Indenture.

6. *Counterparts.* The parties may sign any number of copies of this Supplemental Indenture. Each signed copy shall be an original, but all of them together represent the same agreement.

7. *Effect of Headings.* The Section headings herein are for convenience only and shall not effect the construction thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Supplemental Indenture to be duly executed as of the date first above written.

GRIFFON CORPORATION

by

/s/ ROBERT BALEMIAN

Name: Robert Balemian
Title: President

AMERICAN STOCK TRANSFER AND TRUST COMPANY

by

/s/ JOSEPH WOLF

Name: Joseph Wolf
Title: Vice President

May 21, 2004

Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: Griffon Corporation
Registration Statement on Form S-4

Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Griffon Corporation ("Griffon") in connection with a Registration Statement on Form S-4 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Registration Statement") relating to Griffon's offer to exchange \$130 million aggregate principal amount of its 4% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series) (the "New Notes") and \$390,000 in cash for \$130 million aggregate principal amount of its currently outstanding 4% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (first series). The New Notes will be issued under an Indenture between Griffon and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as trustee. The Registration Statement also relates to 5,387,484 shares of Griffon's common stock, par value \$.25 per share (the "Common Stock"), issuable upon conversion of the New Notes.

Based on the foregoing, and such other examination of law and fact as we have deemed necessary, we are of the opinion that:

1. The New Notes constitute valid and legally binding obligations of Griffon.
2. When the Common Stock is issued on exercise of a right to convert the New Notes as contemplated in the Registration Statement, the Common Stock will be legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the reference to us under the caption "Legal Matters" in the prospectus which is a part of the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

Kramer, Coleman, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES
(in thousands except for ratios)

	Years Ended September 30,					Six Months Ended March 31, 2004
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Earnings:						
Income before income taxes	\$ 32,081	\$ 43,449	\$ 61,727	\$ 64,403	\$ 83,065	\$ 45,006
Interest expense	7,871	11,785	11,065	4,569	4,867	4,090
Interest portion of rent expense	9,133	9,967	10,600	10,167	10,300	5,233
Amortization of debt issuance costs	144	89	85	135	143	157
	<u>\$ 49,229</u>	<u>\$ 65,290</u>	<u>\$ 83,477</u>	<u>\$ 79,274</u>	<u>\$ 98,375</u>	<u>\$ 54,486</u>
Fixed Charges:						
Interest expenses	\$ 7,871	\$ 11,785	\$ 11,065	\$ 4,569	\$ 4,867	\$ 4,090
Interest portion of rent expense	9,133	9,967	10,600	10,167	10,300	5,233
Capitalized interest	1,556	1,574	1,203	487	242	25
Amortization of debt issuance costs	144	89	85	135	143	157
	<u>\$ 18,704</u>	<u>\$ 23,415</u>	<u>\$ 22,953</u>	<u>\$ 15,358</u>	<u>\$ 15,552</u>	<u>\$ 9,505</u>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)	2.6	2.8	3.6	5.2	6.3	5.7

(1) For the purpose of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, "earnings" consist of income before income taxes plus "fixed charges" and certain other adjustments. "Fixed charges" consist of interest incurred on all indebtedness, amortization of debt issuance costs, and the portion of rent expense deemed representative of the interest factor.

QuickLinks

[RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES \(in thousands except for ratios\)](#)

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-4 of Griffon Corporation and its subsidiaries of our report dated November 5, 2003 relating to the financial statements and financial statement schedules, which appears in Griffon Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2003. We also consent to the references to us under the headings "Experts" and "Selected Consolidated Financial Data" in such Registration Statement.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

New York, NY
May 19, 2004

QuickLinks

[CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS](#)

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM T-1

**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATION
UNDER THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939 OF A
CORPORATION DESIGNATED TO ACT AS TRUSTEE**

AMERICAN STOCK TRANSFER & TRUST COMPANY

(Exact name of trustee as specified in its charter)

New York
(State of incorporation
if not a national bank)

13-3439945
(I.R.S. employer
identification No.)

59 Maiden Lane
New York, New York
(Address of trustee's
principal executive offices)

10038
(Zip Code)

GRIFFON CORPORATION

(Exact name of obligor as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

11-1893410
(I.R.S. employer
identification No.)

100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, New York
(Address of principal executive
offices)

11753
(Zip Code)

4% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (Second Series)

(Title of the Indenture Securities)

GENERAL

1. General Information.

Furnish the following information as to the trustee:

- a. Name and address of each examining or supervising authority to which it is subject.

New York State Banking Department, Albany, New York

- b. Whether it is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.

The Trustee is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.

2. Affiliations with Obligor and Underwriters.

If the obligor or any underwriter for the obligor is an affiliate of the trustee, describe each such affiliation.

None.

3. Voting Securities of the Trustee.

Furnish the following information as to each class of voting securities of the trustee:

As of May 19, 2004

COL. A	COL. B
Title of Class	Amount Outstanding
Common Shares - par value \$600 per share.	1,000 shares

4. Trusteeships under Other Indentures.

The Trustee is trustee for certain 4% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2023 issued by the Obligor under a certain Indenture dated as of July 18, 2003.

5. Interlocking Directorates and Similar Relationships with the Obligor or Underwriters.
None.
6. Voting Securities of the Trustee Owned by the Obligor or its Officials.
None.
7. Voting Securities of the Trustee Owned by Underwriters or their Officials.
None.
8. Securities of the Obligor Owned or Held by the Trustee.
None.
9. Securities of Underwriters Owned or Held by the Trustee.
None.
10. Ownership or Holdings by the Trustee of Voting Securities of Certain Affiliates or Security Holders of the Obligor.
None.
11. Ownership or Holdings by the Trustee of any Securities of a Person Owning 50 Percent or More of the Voting Securities of the Obligor.
None.
12. Indebtedness of the Obligor to the Trustee.
None.

13. Defaults by the Obligor.

None.

14. Affiliations with the Underwriters.

None.

15. Foreign Trustee.

Not applicable.

16. List of Exhibits.

- T-1.1 - A copy of the Organization Certificate of American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as amended to date including authority to commence business and exercise trust powers was filed in connection with the Registration Statement of Live Entertainment, Inc., File No. 33-54654, and is incorporated herein by reference.
- T-1.4 - A copy of the By-Laws of American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as amended to date was filed in connection with the Registration Statement of Live Entertainment, Inc., File No. 33-54654, and is incorporated herein by reference.
- T-1.6 - The consent of the Trustee required by Section 312(b) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Exhibit A.
- T-1.7 - A copy of the latest report of condition of the Trustee published pursuant to law or the requirements of its supervising or examining authority. - Exhibit B.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 the Trustee, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, has duly caused this statement of eligibility and qualification to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, all in the City of New York, and State of New York, on the 19th day of May, 2004.

AMERICAN STOCK TRANSFER
& TRUST COMPANY
Trustee

By: /s/ Joseph Wolf
Vice President

EXHIBIT A

Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, DC 20549

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 321 (b) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, and subject to the limitations therein contained, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company hereby consents that reports of examinations of said corporation by Federal, State, Territorial or District authorities may be furnished by such authorities to you upon request therefor.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN STOCK TRANSFER
& TRUST COMPANY

By _____
Vice President

AMERICAN STOCK TRANSFER & TRUST COMPANY
59 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038

Consolidated Report of Condition and Income for a Bank with Domestic Offices only and Total Assets of less than \$100 Million Report at Close of Business on December 31, 2003.

All schedules are to be reported in thousands of dollars. Unless otherwise indicated, report the amount outstanding as of the last business day of the quarter.

Schedule RC - Balance Sheet

Dollar Amounts in Thousands

ASSETS	
1. Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	
a. Non-interest-bearing balances and currency and coin	1,634
b. Interest-bearing balances	374
2. Securities:	
a. Held-to-maturity securities (from Schedule RC-B, column A)	19,418
b. Available-for-sale securities (from Schedule RC-B, column D)	10,855
3. Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	
4. Loans and lease financing receivables.	
5. Trading assets	
6. Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	7,129
7. Other real estate owned (from Schedule RC-M)	
8. Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies (from Schedule RC-M)	
9. Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding	
10. Intangible assets (from Schedule RC-M)	
11. Other assets (from Schedule RC-F)	5,194
12. Total assets (sum of items 1 through 11)	44,607

Schedule RC

Dollar Amounts in Thousands

LIABILITIES

13. Deposits	
14. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	
15. Trading liabilities	
16. Other borrowed money (includes mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases):	
17. Not applicable	
18. Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding	
19. Subordinated notes and debentures	
20. Other liabilities (from Schedule RC-G)	23,490
21. Total liabilities (sum of items 13 through 20)	23,490
22. Not applicable	

EQUITY CAPITAL

23. Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus	600
24. Common stock	11,449
25. Surplus (exclude all surplus related to preferred stock)	8,394
26. a. Retained Earnings	674
b. Accumulated other comprehensive income	
27. Other equity capital components	
28. Total equity capital (sum of items 23 through 27)	21,117
29. Total liabilities and equity capital (sum of items 21 and 28)	44,607

**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL
GRIFFON CORPORATION**

**Offer to Exchange
up to \$130,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount
of Newly Issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023
(second series)
plus
up to \$390,000 in cash (\$3.00 per \$1,000 principal amount)
for
up to \$130,000,000 Outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount
of 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023**

THE EXCHANGE OFFER WILL EXPIRE AT 5:00 P.M., NEW YORK CITY TIME, ON JUNE 21, 2004 UNLESS EXTENDED OR EARLIER TERMINATED (THE "EXPIRATION DATE"). TENDERS MAY BE WITHDRAWN PRIOR TO 5:00 P.M., NEW YORK CITY TIME, ON THE EXPIRATION DATE

Delivery To:

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, Exchange Agent

By regular, registered or certified mail, hand delivery or overnight courier:

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company
59 Maiden Lane, Plaza Level
New York, New York 10038
Attention: Exchange Department

For Information or Confirmation by Telephone:

(877) 248-6417

*By Facsimile Transmission
(For Eligible Institutions Only):*

(718) 234-5001

DELIVERY OF THIS INSTRUMENT TO AN ADDRESS OTHER THAN AS SET FORTH ABOVE, OR TRANSMISSION OF INSTRUCTIONS VIA FACSIMILE OTHER THAN AS SET FORTH ABOVE, WILL NOT CONSTITUTE A VALID DELIVERY.

The undersigned acknowledges that he or she has received and reviewed the Prospectus, dated May 21, 2004 (the "Prospectus"), of Griffon Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and this Letter of Transmittal (the "Letter"), which together constitute the Company's offer (the "Exchange Offer") to exchange its 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series) (the "New Notes") and cash (\$3 per \$1,000 principal amount) for all of its currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (the "Old Notes") from the registered holders thereof (the "Holders").

Holders must tender Old Notes in a principal amount of \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000. The Company will pay any accrued and unpaid interest on the Old Notes tendered in the Exchange Offer in cash to, but excluding, the closing date for the Exchange Offer. The New Notes will bear interest from the date of issuance. Holders of New Notes on the relevant record date for the first interest payment date following the consummation of the Exchange Offer will receive interest accruing from the date of issuance.

This Letter is to be completed by a Holder of Old Notes and delivery of Old Notes is to be made by book-entry transfer to the account maintained by the Exchange Agent at The Depository Trust Company (the "Book-Entry Transfer Facility") pursuant to the procedures set forth in "The Exchange Offer—Procedures for Tendering Old Notes" section of the Prospectus. Holders of Old Notes who are unable to deliver confirmation of the book-entry tender of their Old Notes into the Exchange Agent's account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility (a "Book-Entry Confirmation") and all other documents required by this Letter to the Exchange Agent on or prior to the Expiration Date, must tender their Old Notes according to the guaranteed delivery procedures set forth in "The Exchange Offer—Guaranteed Delivery Procedures" section of the Prospectus. Delivery of documents to the Book-Entry Transfer Facility does not constitute delivery to the Exchange Agent.

The undersigned has completed the appropriate boxes below and signed this Letter to indicate the action the undersigned desires to take with respect to the Exchange Offer.

List below the Old Notes to which this Letter relates. If the space provided below is inadequate, the description and principal amount of Old Notes should be listed and attached on a separate signed schedule.

DESCRIPTION OF OLD NOTES

1. Name(s) and Address(es) of Registered Holder(s) (Please fill in, if blank)	2. Aggregate Principal Amount of Old Note(s)	3. Principal Amount Tendered*
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Total:

Total:

* Unless otherwise indicated in this column, a Holder will be deemed to have tendered ALL of the Old Notes represented by the Old Notes indicated in column 2. See Instruction 2. Old Notes tendered hereby must be in denominations of a \$1,000 principal amount or an integral multiple thereof. See Instruction 1.

-
- CHECK HERE IF TENDERED OLD NOTES ARE BEING DELIVERED BY BOOK-ENTRY TRANSFER MADE TO THE ACCOUNT MAINTAINED BY THE EXCHANGE AGENT WITH THE BOOK-ENTRY TRANSFER FACILITY AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

Name of Tendering Institution: _____

Account Number: _____

Transaction Code Number: _____

- CHECK HERE IF TENDERED OLD NOTES ARE BEING DELIVERED PURSUANT TO A NOTICE OF GUARANTEED DELIVERY PREVIOUSLY SENT TO THE EXCHANGE AGENT AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

Name(s) of Registered Holder(s): _____

Window Ticket Number (if any): _____

Date of Execution of Notice of Guaranteed Delivery: _____

Name of Institution which Guaranteed Delivery: _____

For Book-Entry Transfer, Complete the Following:

Account Number: _____

Transaction Code Number: _____

PLEASE READ THE ACCOMPANYING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Exchange Offer, the undersigned hereby tenders to the Company the aggregate principal amount of Old Notes indicated above. Subject to, and effective upon, the acceptance for exchange of the Old Notes tendered hereby, the undersigned hereby sells, assigns and transfers to, or upon the order of, the Company all right, title and interest in and to such Old Notes as are being tendered hereby. The undersigned hereby irrevocably constitutes and appoints the Exchange Agent as the undersigned's true and lawful agent and attorney-in-fact with respect to such tendered Old Notes, with full power of substitution, among other things, to cause the Old Notes to be assigned, transferred and exchanged. The undersigned hereby represents and warrants that the undersigned has full power and authority to tender, sell, assign and transfer the Old Notes, and to acquire New Notes issuable upon the exchange of such tendered Old Notes, and that, when the same are accepted for exchange, the Company will acquire good and unencumbered title thereto, free and clear of all liens, restrictions, charges and encumbrances and not subject to any adverse claim when the same are accepted by the Company. The undersigned hereby further represents that any New Notes acquired in exchange for Old Notes tendered hereby will have been acquired in the ordinary course of business of the person receiving such New Notes, whether or not such person is the undersigned, that neither the Holder of such Old Notes nor any such other person is participating in, intends to participate in or has an arrangement or understanding with any person to participate in the distribution of such New Notes and that neither the Holder of such Old Notes nor any such other person is an "affiliate," as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, of the Company.

The undersigned will, upon request, execute and deliver any additional documents deemed by the Company to be necessary or desirable to complete the sale, assignment and transfer of the Old Notes tendered hereby. All authority conferred or agreed to be conferred in this Letter and every obligation of the undersigned hereunder shall be binding upon the successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators, trustees in bankruptcy and legal representatives of the undersigned and shall not be affected by, and shall survive, the death or incapacity of the undersigned. This tender may be withdrawn only in accordance with the procedures set forth in "The Exchange Offer—Withdrawal Rights" section of the Prospectus.

Unless otherwise indicated herein in the box entitled "Special Issuance Instructions" below, please credit the account indicated above maintained at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility.

THE UNDERSIGNED, BY COMPLETING THE BOX ENTITLED "DESCRIPTION OF OLD NOTES" ABOVE AND SIGNING THIS LETTER, WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE TENDERED THE OLD NOTES AS SET FORTH IN SUCH BOX ABOVE.

SPECIAL ISSUANCE INSTRUCTIONS
(See Instructions 3 and 4)

To be completed ONLY if Old Notes not accepted for exchange are to be returned by credit to an account maintained at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility other than the account indicated above.

Issue: _____

New Notes and/or Old Notes to:

Name(s): _____

(Please Type or Print)

Address: _____

(Please Type or Print)

(Complete Substitute Form W-9)

Credit unexchanged Old Notes delivered by book-entry transfer to the Book-Entry Transfer Facility account set forth below:

(Book-Entry Transfer Facility
Account Number, if applicable)

IMPORTANT: THIS LETTER OR A FACSIMILE HEREOF, OR AN ELECTRONIC CONFIRMATION PURSUANT TO THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY'S ATOP SYSTEM (TOGETHER WITH A BOOK-ENTRY CONFIRMATION AND ALL OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS OR THE NOTICE OF GUARANTEED DELIVERY) MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EXCHANGE AGENT PRIOR TO 5:00 P.M., NEW YORK CITY TIME, ON THE EXPIRATION DATE.

**PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL
CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING ANY BOX ABOVE.**

SIGNATURE(S) OF REGISTERED HOLDER(S) AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY
(See guarantee requirement below)

Dated _____

Name(s) _____

(Please print)

If a Holder is tendering any Old Notes, this Letter must be signed by the registered Holder whose name appears on a security position listing as the Holder of such Old Notes on the Book-Entry Transfer Facility System. If signature is by a trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, officer or other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, please set forth full title. See Instruction 2.

Capacity _____

Address _____

(Including Zip Code)

Area Code and Telephone Number _____

Tax Identification or Social Security No. _____

(COMPLETE ACCOMPANYING SUBSTITUTE FORM W-9)

MEDALLION SIGNATURE GUARANTEE
(If Required—See Instruction 2)

Authorized Signature _____

Name of Firm _____

INSTRUCTIONS

**FORMING PART OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE EXCHANGE OFFER
BY GRIFFON CORPORATION OF
UP TO \$130,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT
OF NEWLY ISSUED 4.0% CONTINGENT CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2023
(SECOND SERIES)
PLUS
UP TO \$390,000 IN CASH (\$3.00 PER \$1,000 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT)
FOR
UP TO \$130,000,000 OUTSTANDING AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT
OF 4.0% CONTINGENT CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2023**

1. Delivery of this Letter; Guaranteed Delivery Procedures.

This Letter, or an electronic confirmation pursuant to the Depository Trust Company's ATOP system, is to be completed by Holders of Old Notes for tenders that are made pursuant to the procedures for delivery by book-entry transfer set forth in "The Exchange Offer—Procedures for Tendering Old Notes" section of the Prospectus. Book-Entry Confirmation as well as a properly completed and duly executed Letter (or manually signed facsimile hereof), or an electronic confirmation pursuant to the Depository Trust Company's ATOP system, and any other required documents, must be received by the Exchange Agent at the address set forth herein on or prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on the Expiration Date, or the tendering Holder must comply with the guaranteed delivery procedures set forth below. Old Notes tendered hereby must be in \$1,000 principal amount denominations or an integral multiple thereof. Holders who cannot complete the procedure for book-entry transfer on a timely basis or who cannot deliver all other required documents to the Exchange Agent on or prior to the Expiration Date may tender their Old Notes pursuant to the guaranteed delivery procedures set forth in "The Exchange Offer—Guaranteed Delivery Procedures" section of the Prospectus. Pursuant to such procedures, (i) such tender must be made through an Eligible Institution, (ii) prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on the Expiration Date, the Exchange Agent must receive from such Eligible Institution a properly completed and duly executed Letter (or a facsimile thereof), or an electronic confirmation pursuant to the Depository Trust Company's ATOP system, and Notice of Guaranteed Delivery, substantially in the form provided by the Company (by facsimile transmission, mail or hand delivery), setting forth the name and address of the Holder of Old Notes and the amount of Old Notes tendered, stating that the tender is being made thereby and guaranteeing that within three trading days after the Expiration Date a Book-Entry Confirmation and any other documents requested by this Letter will be deposited by the Eligible Institution with the Exchange Agent, and (iii) a Book-Entry Confirmation and all other documents required by this Letter, must be received by the Exchange Agent within three trading days after the Expiration Date.

The delivery of the Old Notes and all other required documents will be deemed made only when confirmed by the Exchange Agent. See "The Exchange Offer" section of the Prospectus.

2. Signatures on this Letter; Bond Powers and Endorsements; Guarantee of Signatures.

If this Letter is signed by the registered Holder of the Old Notes tendered hereby, the signature must correspond exactly with the name as it appears on a security position listing as the Holder of such Old Notes in the Book-Entry Transfer Facility System without any change whatsoever.

If any tendered Old Notes are owned of record by two or more joint owners, all of such owners must sign this Letter.

If any tendered Old Notes are registered in different names, it will be necessary to complete, sign and submit as many separate copies of this Letter as there are different registrations.

When this Letter is signed by the registered Holder or Holders of the Old Notes specified herein and tendered hereby, no separate bond powers are required. If, however, the New Notes are to be issued to a person other than the registered Holder, then separate bond powers are required.

If this Letter or any bond powers are signed by trustees, executors, administrators, guardians, attorneys-in-fact, officers of corporations or others acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, such persons should so indicate when signing, and, unless waived by the Company, proper evidence satisfactory to the Company of their authority to so act must be submitted. Signatures on bond powers required by this Instruction 2 must be guaranteed by a firm that is a financial institution (including most banks, savings and loan associations and brokerage houses) that is a member firm of a registered national securities exchange or of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., a commercial bank or trust company having an office or correspondent in the United States, or an Eligible Guarantor Institution within the meaning of Rule 17Ad-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (each an "Eligible Institution").

Signatures on this Letter need not be guaranteed by an Eligible Institution, provided the Old Notes are tendered: (i) by a registered Holder of Old Notes (including any participant in the Book-Entry Transfer Facility system whose name appears on a security position listing as the Holder of such Old Notes) who has not completed the box entitled "Special Issuance Instructions" on this Letter, or (ii) for the account of an Eligible Institution.

3. Special Issuance Instructions.

Holders tendering Old Notes by book-entry transfer may request that Old Notes not exchanged be credited to such account maintained at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility as such Holder may designate hereon. If no such instructions are given, such Old Notes not exchanged will be credited to the proper account maintained at the Depository Trust Company. In the case of issuance in a different name, the employer identification or social security number of the person named must also be indicated.

4. Taxpayer Identification Number.

Federal income tax law generally requires that a tendering Holder whose Old Notes are accepted for exchange must provide the Company (as payor) with such Holder's correct Taxpayer Identification Number ("TIN") on Substitute Form W-9 below, which in the case of a tendering Holder who is an individual, is his or her social security number. If the Company is not provided with the current TIN or an adequate basis for an exemption from backup withholding, such tendering Holder may be subject to a \$50 penalty imposed by the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, the Exchange Agent may be required to withhold 28% of the amount of any reportable payments made after the exchange to such tendering Holder of New Notes. If withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund may be obtained. Exempt Holders of Old Notes (including, among others, all corporations and certain foreign individuals) are not subject to these backup withholding and reporting requirements. See the enclosed Guidelines of Certification of Taxpayer Identification Number on Substitute Form W-9 (the "W-9 Guidelines") for additional instructions.

To prevent backup withholding, each tendering Holder of Old Notes must provide such holder's correct TIN by completing the Substitute Form W-9 set forth below, certifying, under penalties of perjury, that the TIN provided is correct, (or that such Holder is awaiting a TIN) and that (i) the Holder is exempt from backup withholding, or (ii) the Holder has not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service that such Holder is subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends or (iii) the Internal Revenue Service has notified the Holder that such Holder is no longer subject to backup withholding. If the tendering Holder of Old Notes is a nonresident alien or

foreign entity not subject to backup withholding, such Holder must give the Exchange Agent a completed Form W-8, Certificate of Foreign Status. These forms may be obtained from the Exchange Agent. If the Old Notes are in more than one name or are not in the name of the actual owner, such Holder should consult the W-9 Guidelines for information on which TIN to report. If such Holder does not have a TIN, such Holder should consult the W-9 Guidelines for instructions on applying for a TIN, check the box in Part 2 of the Substitute Form W-9 and write "applied for" in lieu of its TIN. Note: Checking this box and writing "applied for" on the form means that such Holder has already applied for a TIN or that such Holder intends to apply for one in the near future. If the box in Part 2 of the Substitute Form W-9 is checked, the Exchange Agent will retain 28% of reportable payments made to a Holder during the sixty (60) day period following the date of the Substitute Form W-9. If the Holder furnishes the Exchange Agent with his or her TIN within sixty (60) days of the date of the Substitute Form W-9, the Exchange Agent will remit such amounts retained during such sixty (60) day period to such Holder and no further amounts will be retained or withheld from payments made to the Holder thereafter. If, however, such Holder does not provide its TIN to the Exchange Agent within such sixty (60) day period, the Exchange Agent will remit such previously withheld amounts to the Internal Revenue Service as backup withholding and will withhold 28% of all reportable payments to the Holder thereafter until such Holder furnishes its TIN to the Exchange Agent. The Company reserves the right in its sole discretion to take whatever steps are necessary to comply with its obligations regarding backup withholding.

5. Transfer Taxes.

The Company will pay all transfer taxes, if any, applicable to the transfer of Old Notes to it or its order pursuant to the Exchange Offer. If, however, New Notes and/or substitute Old Notes not exchanged are to be registered or issued in the name of, any person other than the registered Holder of the Old Notes tendered hereby, or if tendered Old Notes are registered in the name of any person other than the person signing this Letter, or if a transfer tax is imposed for any reason other than the transfer of Old Notes to the Company or its order pursuant to the Exchange Offer, the amount of any such transfer taxes (whether imposed on the registered Holder or any other persons) will be payable by the tendering Holder. If satisfactory evidence of payment of such taxes or exemption therefrom is not submitted herewith, the amount of such transfer taxes will be billed directly to such tendering Holder.

6. Waiver of Conditions.

The Company reserves the absolute right to waive satisfaction of any or all conditions enumerated in the Prospectus except as set forth in the section of the Prospectus entitled "The Exchange Offer—Conditions for Completion of the Exchange Offer."

7. No Conditional Tenders.

No alternative, conditional, irregular or contingent tenders will be accepted. All tendering Holders of Old Notes, by execution of this Letter, shall waive any right to receive notice of the acceptance of their Old Notes for exchange.

Neither the Company, the Exchange Agent nor any other person is obligated to give notice of any defect or irregularity with respect to any tender of Old Notes nor shall any of them incur any liability for failure to give any such notice.

8. Withdrawal Rights.

Tenders of Old Notes may be withdrawn at any time prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on the Expiration Date.

For a withdrawal of a tender of Old Notes to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Exchange Agent at the address set forth above prior to 5:00 p.m. New York City Time, on the Expiration Date. Any such notice of withdrawal must (i) specify the name of the person having tendered the Old Notes to be withdrawn (the "Depositor"), (ii) contain a statement that such Holder is withdrawing his or her election to have such Old Notes exchanged, (iii) specify the principal amount of the Old Notes to be withdrawn, (iv) be signed by the Holder in the same manner as the original signature on the Letter by which such Old Notes were tendered (including any required signature guarantees), and (v) if the Holder is tendering Old Notes in accordance with the procedures for book-entry transfer, specify the name and number of the account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility to be credited with the withdrawn Old Notes and otherwise comply with the procedures of such facility. All questions as to the validity, form and eligibility (including time of receipt) of such notices will be determined by the Company in its sole and absolute discretion, whose determination shall be final and binding on all parties. Any Old Notes so withdrawn will be deemed not to have been validly tendered for exchange for purposes of the Exchange Offer and no New Notes will be issued with respect thereto unless the Old Notes so withdrawn are validly retendered. Any Old Notes that have been tendered for exchange but that are not exchanged for any reason will be credited into the Exchange Agent's account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility pursuant to the book-entry transfer procedures set forth in "The Exchange Offer—Procedures for Tendering Old Notes" section of the Prospectus, such Old Notes will be credited to an account maintained with the Book-Entry Transfer Facility for the Old Notes as soon as practicable after withdrawal, rejection of tender or termination of the Exchange Offer. Properly withdrawn Old Notes may be retendered by following the procedures described above at any time on or prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on the Expiration Date.

9. Requests for Assistance or Additional Copies.

Questions relating to the procedure for tendering, as well as requests for additional copies of the Prospectus and this Letter, and requests for Notices of Guaranteed Delivery and other related documents may be directed to the Information and Exchange Agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, at the address and telephone number indicated above.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL TENDERING HOLDERS
(See Instruction 4)**

Payor's Name:

SUBSTITUTE

Form W-9

**Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**

**Payer's Request for Taxpayer
Identification Number ("TIN") and
Certification**

**Part 1—PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR TIN IN
THE BOX AT RIGHT AND CERTIFY BY
SIGNING AND DATING BELOW.**

Social Security Number
(or Individual Taxpayer Identification
Number)
(If awaiting TIN, write "Applied For")

or Employer Identification Number
(If awaiting TIN, write "Applied For")

Part 2—Certification—Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct TIN (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of failure to report all interest or dividends or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and
3. I am a U.S. person for United States federal income tax purposes.

Certification Instructions— You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. However, if after being notified by the IRS that you were subject to backup withholding you received another notification from the IRS that you are no longer subject to backup withholding, do not cross out item (2).

Signature: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

NOTE: FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS FORM MAY RESULT IN BACKUP WITHHOLDING OF 28% OF ANY PAYMENTS MADE TO YOU PURSUANT TO THE OFFER.

You must complete the following certificate if you do not have a taxpayer identification number certificate or are awaiting a taxpayer identification number

I certify, under penalties of perjury, that a TIN has not been issued to me and either (a) I have mailed or delivered an application to receive a TIN to the appropriate IRS Center or Social Security Administration Office or (b) I intend to mail or deliver such an application in the near future. I understand that if I do not provide a TIN within sixty (60) days, 28% of all reportable payments made to me thereafter will be withheld until I provide a TIN.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

QuickLinks

[FORMING PART OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE EXCHANGE OFFER BY GRIFFON CORPORATION OF UP TO \\$130,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NEWLY ISSUED 4.0% CONTINGENT CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2023 \(SECOND SERIES\) PLUS UP TO \\$390,000 IN CASH \(\\$3.00 PER \\$1,000 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT\) FOR UP TO \\$130,000,000 OUTSTANDING AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF 4.0% CONTINGENT CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2023](#)

NOTICE OF GUARANTEED DELIVERY FOR GRIFFON CORPORATION

You must use this form or one substantially equivalent to this form to accept the Exchange Offer of Griffon Corporation (the "Company") made pursuant to the Prospectus, dated May 21, 2004 (the "Prospectus"), if the procedures for book-entry transfer cannot be completed on a timely basis or time will not permit all required documents to reach American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as exchange agent (the "Exchange Agent") prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on the Expiration Date of the Exchange Offer. Such form may be delivered or transmitted by facsimile transmission, mail or hand delivery to the Exchange Agent as set forth below. In addition, in order to utilize the guaranteed delivery procedure to tender Old Notes pursuant to the Exchange Offer, a Letter of Transmittal (or a facsimile thereof) or an electronic confirmation pursuant to the Depository Trust Company's ATOP system, with any required signature guarantees and any other required documents must also be received by the Exchange Agent prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on the Expiration Date. Capitalized terms not defined herein are defined in the Letter of Transmittal accompanying the Prospectus.

By regular, registered or certified mail, hand delivery or overnight courier:

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company
59 Maiden Lane, Plaza Level
New York, New York 10038
Attention: Exchange Department

For information or confirmation by telephone call:

(877) 248-6417

*By facsimile transmission
(for eligible institutions only):*

(718)-234-5001

DELIVERY OF THIS INSTRUMENT TO AN ADDRESS OTHER THAN AS SET FORTH ABOVE, OR TRANSMISSION OF INSTRUCTIONS VIA FACSIMILE OTHER THAN AS SET FORTH ABOVE, WILL NOT CONSTITUTE A VALID DELIVERY.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Prospectus and the accompanying Letter of Transmittal, the undersigned hereby tenders to the Company the principal amount of Old Notes set forth below pursuant to the guaranteed delivery procedure described in "The Exchange Offer—Guaranteed Delivery Procedures" section of the Prospectus.

Total principal amount of Old Notes for book-entry transfer to be tendered:

\$ _____

Depository Trust Company, please provide account number.

Account Number: _____

All authority herein conferred or agreed to be conferred shall survive the death or incapacity of the undersigned and every obligation of the undersigned hereunder shall be binding upon the heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns of the undersigned.

PLEASE SIGN HERE

X _____

X _____

Signature(s) of Owner(s) or Authorized Signatory

Date

Area Code and Telephone Number: _____

Must be signed by the Holder(s) of Old Notes as their name(s) appear(s) on a security position listing, or by person(s) authorized to become registered Holder(s) by endorsement and documents transmitted with this Notice of Guaranteed Delivery. If signature is by a trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, attorney-in-fact, officer or other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, such person must set forth his or her full title below:

Name(s): _____

Capacity: _____

Address(es): _____

*Must be in denominations of principal amount of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof.

GRIFFON CORPORATION
Offer to Exchange
up to \$130,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount
of Newly Issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series)
plus
up to \$390,000 in cash (\$3.00 per \$1,000 principal amount)
for
up to \$130,000,000 Outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount
of 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023

To: Brokers, Dealers, Commercial Banks, Trust Companies and Other Nominees:

Griffon Corporation (the "Company") is offering, upon and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Prospectus, dated May 21, 2004 (the "Prospectus"), and the enclosed Letter of Transmittal (the "Letter of Transmittal"), to exchange (the "Exchange Offer") its 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series) (the "New Notes") and cash (\$3 per \$1,000 principal amount) for all of its currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (the "Old Notes"). We are requesting that you contact your clients for whom you hold Old Notes regarding the Exchange Offer. For your information and for forwarding to your clients for whom you hold Old Notes registered in your name or in the name of your nominee, or who hold Old Notes registered in their own names, we are enclosing the following documents:

1. A prospectus dated May 21, 2004;
2. A Letter of Transmittal for your use and for the information of your clients;
3. A Notice of Guaranteed Delivery to be used to accept the Exchange Offer if time will not permit all required documents to reach the Exchange Agent prior to 5:00 p.m. New York City time on the Expiration Date (as defined below) or if the procedure for book-entry transfer cannot be completed on a timely basis;
4. A form of letter that may be sent to your clients for whose account you hold Old Notes registered in your name or the name of your nominee, with space provided for obtaining such clients' instructions with regard to the Exchange Offer;
5. Guidelines for Certification of Taxpayer Identification Number on Substitute Form W-9; and
6. Return envelopes addressed to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the Exchange Agent for the Exchange Offer.

Your prompt action is requested. The Exchange Offer will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on Monday, June 21, 2004, unless extended by the Company (the "Expiration Date"). Old Notes tendered pursuant to the Exchange Offer may be withdrawn at any time before the Expiration Date. To participate in the Exchange Offer, a duly executed and properly completed Letter of Transmittal (or facsimile thereof), or an electronic confirmation pursuant to the Depository Trust Company's ATOP system, with any required signature guarantees and any other required documents, should be sent to the Exchange Agent all in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Letter of Transmittal and the Prospectus.

If a registered holder of Old Notes desires to tender, but the procedure for book-entry transfer cannot be completed on a timely basis, a tender may be effected by following the guaranteed delivery procedures described in the Prospectus under "The Exchange Offer—Guaranteed Delivery Procedures." The Company will, upon request, reimburse brokers, dealers, commercial banks and trust companies for reasonable and necessary costs and expenses incurred by them in forwarding the Prospectus and the related documents to the beneficial owners of Old Notes held by them as nominee or in a fiduciary capacity. The Company will pay or cause to be paid all stock transfer taxes applicable

to the exchange of Old Notes pursuant to the Exchange Offer, except as set forth in Instruction 5 of the Letter of Transmittal.

Any inquiries you may have with respect to the Exchange Offer, or requests for additional copies of the enclosed materials, should be directed to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the Information and Exchange Agent for the Exchange Offer, at its address and telephone number set forth on the front of the Letter of Transmittal.

Very truly yours,

GRIFFON CORPORATION

NOTHING HEREIN OR IN THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS SHALL CONSTITUTE YOU OR ANY PERSON AS AN AGENT OF THE COMPANY OR THE EXCHANGE AGENT, OR AUTHORIZE YOU OR ANY OTHER PERSON TO USE ANY DOCUMENT OR MAKE ANY STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF EITHER OF THEM WITH RESPECT TO THE EXCHANGE OFFER, EXCEPT FOR STATEMENTS EXPRESSLY MADE IN THE PROSPECTUS OR THE LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

Enclosures

GRIFFON CORPORATION
Offer to Exchange
up to \$130,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount
of Newly Issued 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated
Notes Due 2023 (second series)
plus
up to \$390,000 in cash (\$3.00 per \$1,000 principal amount)
for
up to \$130,000,000 Outstanding Aggregate Principal Amount
of 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023

To Our Clients:

Enclosed for your consideration is a Prospectus, dated May 21, 2004 (the "Prospectus"), and the related Letter of Transmittal (the "Letter of Transmittal"), relating to the offer (the "Exchange Offer") by Griffon Corporation (the "Company") to exchange its 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (second series) (the "New Notes") and cash (\$3 per \$1,000 principal amount) for all of its currently outstanding 4.0% Contingent Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2023 (the "Old Notes"), upon the terms and subject to the conditions described in the Prospectus and the Letter of Transmittal.

This material is being forwarded to you as the beneficial owner of the Old Notes held by us for your account but not registered in your name. A tender of such Old Notes may only be made by us as the holder of record and pursuant to your instructions.

Accordingly, we request instructions as to whether you wish us to tender on your behalf the Old Notes held by us for your account, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the enclosed Prospectus and Letter of Transmittal. Your instructions should be forwarded to us as promptly as possible in order to permit us to tender the Old Notes on your behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Exchange Offer. The Exchange Offer will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on June 21, 2004, unless extended by the Company. Any Old Notes tendered pursuant to the Exchange Offer may be withdrawn at any time before the Expiration Date.

Your attention is directed to the following:

1. The Exchange Offer is for any and all Old Notes.
2. The Exchange Offer is subject to certain conditions set forth in the Prospectus in the section captioned "The Exchange Offer—Conditions for Completion of the Exchange Offer."
3. Any transfer taxes incident to the transfer of Old Notes from the holder to the Company will be paid by the Company, except as set forth in Instruction 5 of the Letter of Transmittal.
4. The Exchange Offer expires at 5:00 p.m., New York City Time, on Monday, June 21, 2004, unless extended by the Company.

If you wish to have us tender your Old Notes, please so instruct us by completing, executing and returning to us the instruction form on the back of this letter. The Letter of Transmittal is furnished to you for information only and may not be used directly by you to tender Old Notes.

INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE EXCHANGE OFFER

The undersigned acknowledge(s) receipt of your letter and the enclosed material referred to therein relating to the Exchange Offer made by Griffon Corporation with respect to its Old Notes.

This will instruct you to tender the Old Notes indicated below (or, if no number is indicated below, all Old Notes) held by you for the account of the undersigned, upon and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Prospectus and the related Letter of Transmittal.

Please tender the Old Notes held by you for my account as indicated below:

Aggregate Principal Amount of Old Notes to be tendered

\$ _____

Please do not tender any Old Notes held by you for my account.

Dated: _____, 2004

Signature(s)

Print name(s) here

Print Address(es)

Area Code and Telephone Number(s)

Tax Identification or Social Security Number(s)

None of the Old Notes held by us for your account will be tendered unless we receive written instructions from you to do so. After receipt of instructions to tender, unless we receive specific contrary instructions we will tender all the Old Notes held by us for your account.

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[INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE EXCHANGE OFFER](#)