

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

| OMB APPROVAL | |
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| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>HARNETT GORDON D</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O ACUITY BRANDS, INC.</u> <u>1170 PEACHTREE STREET, NESUITE 2400</u> (Street) <u>ATLANTA GA 30309</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ACUITY BRANDS INC [AYI]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | |
| | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>05/01/2009</u> | | |
| | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | |
| | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-----|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|-------|
| | | | | | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | | Title |
| Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | (2) | 05/01/2009 | | A | 1,183 | | (3) | (3) | Common Stock | 1,183 | \$27.49 | 2,329 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Stock Units are accrued under the Issuer's Nonemployee Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (formerly known as the Nonemployee Directors' Stock Unit Plan) and are payable in shares upon retirement in either lump sum or five annual installments. Accruals include required and elective deferral of director fees. During the Reporting Period, fees paid to the Reporting Person resulted in an increase in the number of units held.

2. 1-for-1

3. Stock Units issued pursuant to the Plan are payable in common shares upon retirement in either a lump sum or five annual installments.

Gordon D. Harnett

05/04/2009

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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

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