FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington D.C. 20549

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| STATEMENT | OF CHAI | NGES IN B | ENEFICIAL | OWNERSHIP |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|

| 3235-0287 |
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| 0.5 |
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* WILLIAMS NEIL | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ACUITY BRANDS INC [AYI] | | | | | | | | Relationshipheck all app | , | g Perso | on(s) to Iss | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|--------|-------------|--|--|---|--------------------------|---|--|----------------------|---|---|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ACUITY BRANDS, INC. | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/01/2012 | | | | | | | | | Officer (give title pelow) | | Other (s below) | specify | |
| 1170 PEACHTREE STREET, NESUITE 2400 | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | | | |
| (Street) ATLANTA GA 30309 | | | | | | | | | | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | | | |
| (City) | (Si | ate) (| Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transac Date (Month/Da | | | | | Execution Da | | n Date | Code (Instr | | tr. 5) | | str. 3, 4 ar | Benefi | ties For cially (D) I Following (I) (I | | m: Direct or Indirect Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | | | | Code | <u> </u> | Amount | (A) or (D) Pri | | | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | ` ′ | |
| 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 Datif any (Month/Day/Ye | | e, Transactio Code (Inst | | n of | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Secur (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | | / O F- D (I | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | Co | ode \ | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Exp | oiration e | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | |
| Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | (2) | 05/01/2012 | | | A | | 292 | | (1) | | (3) | Common Stock | 292 | \$55.67 | 25,367 | | D | |

${\bf Explanation\ of\ Responses:}$

- 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.

Neil Williams

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

05/01/2012

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.