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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused the Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 18, 2002

GERDAU S.A.

By: /s/ Osvaldo Burgos Schirmer

Name: Osvaldo Burgos Schirmer
Title: Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit | Description of Exhibit |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Press release dated December 12, 2002 |