

ASHLAND INC.
Form 4
September 10, 2008

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS MASTER FUND I, LTD.

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O INTERNATIONAL FUND SERVICES LIMITED, THIRD FL, BISHOP'S SQUARE REDMOND'S HILL

(Street)

DUBLIN, L2 00000

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
ASHLAND INC. [ASH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
09/08/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___X___ 10% Owner
___ Officer (give title below) ___X___ Other (specify below)

* See Remarks

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

___ Form filed by One Reporting Person
X 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Code V Amount (D) Price | | |

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

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 control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

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| 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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. F Der Sec (Ins | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Equity Swap | (8) | 09/08/2008 ⁽⁹⁾ | | J | 13,934 ⁽⁹⁾ | (8)(9) | (8)(9) | Common Stock | 0 |
| Equity Swap | (8) | 09/08/2008 ⁽⁹⁾ | | J | 85,134 ⁽⁹⁾ | (8)(9) | (8)(9) | Common Stock | 0 |
| Equity Swap | (8) | 09/08/2008 ⁽⁹⁾ | | J | 98,999 ⁽⁹⁾ | (8)(9) | (8)(9) | Common Stock | 67,667 |
| Equity Swap | (8) | 09/09/2008 ⁽⁹⁾ | | J | 67,667 ⁽⁹⁾ | (8)(9) | (8)(9) | Common Stock | 0 |
| Equity Swap | (8) | 09/09/2008 ⁽⁹⁾ | | J | 111,000 ⁽⁹⁾ | (8)(9) | (8)(9) | Common Stock | 55,667 |
| Equity Swap | (8) | | | | | (8) | (8) | Common Stock | 65,200 |
| Equity Swap | (8) | | | | | (8) | (8) | Common Stock | 96,867 |
| Equity Swap | (11) | 09/08/2008 ⁽¹²⁾ | | J | 6,966 ⁽¹²⁾ | (11)(12) | (11)(12) | Common Stock | 0 |
| Equity Swap | (11) | 09/08/2008 ⁽¹²⁾ | | J | 42,566 ⁽¹²⁾ | (11)(12) | (11)(12) | Common Stock | 0 |
| Equity Swap | (11) | 09/08/2008 ⁽¹²⁾ | | J | 49,501 ⁽¹²⁾ | (11)(12) | (11)(12) | Common Stock | 33,833 |
| Equity Swap | (11) | 09/09/2008 ⁽¹²⁾ | | J | 33,833 ⁽¹²⁾ | (11)(12) | (11)(12) | Common Stock | 0 |
| Equity Swap | (11) | 09/09/2008 ⁽¹²⁾ | | J | 55,500 ⁽¹²⁾ | (11)(12) | (11)(12) | Common Stock | 27,833 |
| Equity Swap | (11) | | | | | (11) | (11) | Common Stock | 32,600 |
| Equity Swap | (11) | | | | | (11) | (11) | Common Stock | 48,433 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director

Officer

Other

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| | 10% Owner | |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS MASTER FUND I, LTD. C/O INTERNATIONAL FUND SERVICES LIMITED THIRD FL, BISHOP'S SQUARE REDMOND'S HILL DUBLIN, L2 00000 | X | * See Remarks |
| HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS OFFSHORE MANAGER, L.L.C. 2100 THIRD AVENUE NORTH SUITE 600 BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203 | X | * See Remarks |
| HMC INVESTORS, L.L.C. 2100 THIRD AVENUE NORTH SUITE 600 BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203 | X | * See Remarks |
| HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS SPECIAL SITUATIONS FUND, L.P. 555 MADISON AVENUE 16TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022 | X | * See Remarks |
| HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS SPECIAL SITUATIONS GP, LLC 555 MADISON AVENUE 16TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022 | X | * See Remarks |
| HMC - NEW YORK, INC. 555 MADISON AVENUE 16TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022 | X | * See Remarks |
| HARBERT MANAGEMENT CORP 2100 THIRD AVENUE NORTH SUITE 600 BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203 | X | * See Remarks |
| FALCONE PHILIP 555 MADISON AVE 16TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022 | X | * See Remarks |
| HARBERT RAYMOND J 2100 THIRD AVENUE NORTH SUITE 600 BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203 | X | * See Remarks |
| LUCE MICHAEL D 2100 THIRD AVENUE NORTH SUITE 600 BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203 | X | * See Remarks |

Signatures

| | |
|--|------------|
| Harbinger Capital Partners Master Fund I, Ltd.(+), By: Harbinger Capital Partners Offshore Manager, L.L.C., By: HMC Investors, L.L.C., Managing Member, By: /s/ William R. Lucas, Jr. | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| Harbinger Capital Partners Offshore Manager, L.L.C.(+), By: HMC Investors, L.L.C., Managing Member, By: /s/ William R. Lucas, Jr. | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| HMC Investors, L.L.C.(+), By: /s/ William R. Lucas, Jr. | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| Harbinger Capital Partners Special Situations Fund, L.P.(+), By: Harbinger Capital Partners Special Situations GP, LLC, By: HMC-New York, Inc., Managing Member, By: /s/ William R. Lucas, Jr. | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| Harbinger Capital Partners Special Situations GP, LLC(+), By: HMC-New York, Inc., Managing Member, By: /s/ William R. Lucas, Jr. | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| HMC-New York, Inc.(+), By: /s/ William R. Lucas, Jr. | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| Harbert Management Corporation(+), By: /s/ William R. Lucas, Jr. | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| /s/ Philip Falcone(+) | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| /s/ Raymond J. Harbert(+) | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |
| /s/ Michael D. Luce(+) | 09/10/2008 |
| __Signature of Reporting Person | Date |

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- IMPORTANT NOTE: THE SECURITIES SET FORTH IN THIS REPORT ARE DIRECTLY BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS MASTER FUND I, LTD. AND/OR HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS SPECIAL SITUATIONS FUND, L.P. (COLLECTIVELY, THE "FUNDS"). ALL OTHER REPORTING PERSONS ARE INCLUDED WITHIN THIS REPORT DUE TO THEIR AFFILIATION WITH ONE OR BOTH OF THE FUNDS.
- (1)
 - (2) These securities are owned by Harbinger Capital Partners Master Fund I, Ltd. (the "Master Fund"), which is a Reporting Person.
 - (3)

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These securities may be deemed to be indirectly beneficially owned by the following, each of whom is a Reporting Person: Harbinger Capital Partners Offshore Manager, L.L.C. ("Harbinger Management"), the investment manager of the Master Fund, HMC Investors, L.L.C., its managing member ("HMC Investors"), Philip Falcone, a member of HMC Investors and the portfolio manager of the Master Fund, Raymond J. Harbert, a member of HMC Investors, and Michael D. Luce, a member of HMC Investors.

(4) Each Reporting Person listed in Footnotes 2 and 3 disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his or its pecuniary interest therein, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that such Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of the securities for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or for any other purpose.

(5) These securities are owned by Harbinger Capital Partners Special Situations Fund, L.P. (the "Special Situations Fund"), which is a Reporting Person.

(6) These securities may be deemed to be indirectly beneficially owned by the following Reporting Persons: Harbinger Capital Partners Special Situations GP, LLC ("HCPSS"), HMC-New York, Inc. ("HMCNY"), Harbert Management Corporation ("HMC"), Philip Falcone, Raymond J. Harbert and Michael Luce. HCPSS is the general partner of the Special Situations Fund. HMCNY is the managing member of HCPSS. HMC wholly owns HMCNY. Philip Falcone is the portfolio manager of the Special Situations Fund and is a shareholder of HMC. Raymond J. Harbert and Michael D. Luce are shareholders of HMC.

(7) Each Reporting Person listed in Footnotes 5 and 6 disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his or its pecuniary interest therein, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that such Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of the securities for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or for any other purpose.

(8) The Master Fund entered into eight equity swap transactions with Deutsche Bank ("DB") effective on December 28, 2007, December 31, 2007, January 2, 2008, January 3, 2008, January 10, 2008, January 11, 2008, January 14, 2008 and January 15, 2008, respectively, under which DB agreed to pay the Master Fund an amount equal to the total return of 43,333, 66,934, 86,333, 85,134, 166,666, 166,667, 65,200 and 96,867 notional shares, respectively, above or below an initial reference price of US\$47.0944, US\$47.5309, US\$47.3103, US\$46.4377, US\$45.3348, US\$45.0690, US\$45.2211 and US\$45.0517, respectively, per share upon close-out of any transaction.

(9) On September 8, 2008 and September 9, 2008, the Master Fund closed out certain equity swap transactions with DB in the amount of 198,067 and 178,667 notional shares, respectively, at a price of US\$38.12 and US\$37.99, respectively.

(10) The equity swap transactions do not contemplate interim payments of appreciation or depreciation of the shares, and the Master Fund is not entitled to any dividends on the shares or equivalent thereof. All balances will be cash settled, and neither party shall acquire any ownership interest, voting or similar rights, or dispositive power over any Share under the equity swap transactions. Each equity swap transaction may be closed out by the Master Fund at any time.

(11) The Special Situations Fund entered into eight equity swap transactions with DB effective on December 28, 2007, December 31, 2007, January 2, 2008, January 3, 2008, January 10, 2008, January 11, 2008, January 14, 2008 and January 15, 2008, respectively, under which DB agreed to pay the Special Situations Fund an amount equal to the total return of 21,667, 33,466, 43,167, 42,566, 83,334, 83,333, 32,600 and 48,433 notional shares, respectively, above or below an initial reference price of US\$47.0944, US\$47.5309, US\$47.3103, US\$46.4377, US\$45.3348, US\$45.0690, US\$45.2211 and US\$45.0517, respectively, per share upon close-out of any transaction.

(12) On September 8, 2008 and September 9, 2008, the Special Situations Fund closed out certain equity swap transactions with DB in the amount of 99,033 and 89,333 notional shares, respectively, at a price of US\$38.12 and US\$37.99, respectively.

(13) The equity swap transactions do not contemplate interim payments of appreciation or depreciation of the shares, and the Special Situations Fund is not entitled to any dividends on the shares or equivalent thereof. All balances will be cash settled, and neither party shall acquire any ownership interest, voting or similar rights, or dispositive power over any Share under the equity swap transactions. Each equity swap transaction may be closed out by the Special Situations Fund at any time.

Remarks:

(+) The Reporting Persons may be deemed to be members of a "group" for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Each Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of any securities deemed to be owned by the group that are not directly owned by the Reporting Person. This report shall not be deemed an admission that such Reporting Person is a member of a group or the beneficial owner of any securities not directly owned by such Reporting Person.

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

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