

ASHLAND INC  
Form 4  
December 16, 2004

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**OBRIEN JAMES J /KY**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**50 E. RIVERCENTER BOULEVARD**  
(Street)

**COVINGTON, KY 41012-0391**

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/15/2004**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
**Chief Executive Officer**

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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)
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	5,340	D	
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	3,192 <sup>(1)</sup>	I	LESOP
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	769 <sup>(2)</sup>	I	401(K)

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

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number.

**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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)
Common Stock Units	\$ 0 <sup>(3)</sup>	12/15/2004		J <sup>(4)</sup>	380	<sup>(4)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup>	Common Stock	380 \$ 58.2

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
OBRIEN JAMES J /KY 50 E. RIVERCENTER BOULEVARD COVINGTON, KY 41012-0391			Chief Executive Officer	

## Signatures

M. Craig Hall 12/16/2004

            
\*\*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).
- (1) Shares accrued under Ashland's Leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of 11-30-04.
- (2) Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 12-14-04, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available.
- (3) 1-for-1
- (4) Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan as of 12-15-04, and exempt under Rule 16b-3(d). (One (1) Common Stock Unit in the 1995 Deferred Compensation Plan is the equivalent of one (1) share of Ashland Common Stock)

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.