

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) JULY 27, 2004

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey

001-4802

22-0760120

(State or other juris-
diction of incorporation)

(Commission
File Number)

(IRS Employer Iden-
tification Number)

1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey

07417-1880

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

(201) 847-6800

N/A

(Former name or former addresses if changed since last report.)

Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

On July 27, 2004, the Registrant issued the press release
that is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 Press release dated July 27, 2004.

SIGNATURES

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

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Dean J. Paranicas

Dean J. Paranicas
Vice President, Corporate
Secretary and Public Policy

Date: July 27, 2004

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number -----	Description of Exhibits -----
99.1	Press release dated July 27, 2004.

[LETTERHEAD OF BECTON DICKINSON]

News Release

Contact:

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BD BOARD DECLARES DIVIDEND

Franklin Lakes, NJ (July 27, 2004) - The Board of Directors of BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) (NYSE:BDX) has declared a quarterly dividend of 15 cents per common share. The dividend will be payable on September 30, 2004 to holders of record on September 9, 2004. The indicated annual dividend rate is 60 cents per share.

BD is a medical technology company that serves healthcare institutions, life science researchers, clinical laboratories, industry and the general public. BD manufactures and sells a broad range of medical supplies, devices, laboratory equipment and diagnostic products. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, BD reported total revenues of \$4.528 billion.
