

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey 22-076120
(State or other jurisdiction (I.R.S. Employer
of incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417-1880
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

2004 EMPLOYEE AND DIRECTOR
EQUITY-BASED COMPENSATION PLAN

(Full title of the plan)

Jeffrey S. Sherman
Vice President and General Counsel
1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417-1880
(Name and address of agent for service)

(201) 847-3223
(Telephone number, including area code,
of agent for service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

<TABLE>
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Table with 5 columns: Title of securities to be registered, Amount to be registered, Proposed maximum offering price per share (1), Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (1), Amount of registration fee (2). Row 1: Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, 9,000,000 shares, \$46.64, \$419,760,000.00, \$27,593.72.

(1) The price stated above is estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933 and is based on the average of the high and low market prices of the registrant's common stock on August 9, 2004 reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape.

(2) Pursuant to Rule 429 of the Securities Act of 1933, the amount of registration fees does not include \$25,589.87 previously paid to the Commission relating to 6,768,813 shares previously registered pursuant to Registration Statement Nos. 333-59238 and 333-108052, which remained unissued as of the close of business on March 31, 2004 and which are also covered by the prospectus included in this Registration Statement.

Item 1. Plan Information.

Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.

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* Information required by Part I of Form S-8 to be contained in a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") is omitted from this registration statement in accordance with the Note to the instructions for Part I of Form S-8.

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PART II.

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Becton, Dickinson and Company ("BD") are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof:

- (a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003;
- (b) All other reports filed by BD pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") since September 30, 2003; and
- (c) The description of the Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, contained in a registration statement filed by BD under the Exchange Act, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by BD pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered pursuant to BD's 2004 Employee and Director Equity-Based Compensation Plan (the "Plan") have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated herein by reference and shall be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not Applicable.

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Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

The validity of the securities has been passed upon by Jeffrey S. Sherman, Vice President and General Counsel of BD. Mr. Sherman beneficially owns and has options to purchase shares of BD's Common Stock, and is eligible to receive awards under the Plan.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Article XI of our bylaws provides as follows:

"The Company shall indemnify to the full extent authorized or permitted by the New Jersey Business Corporation Act, any corporate agent (as defined

in said Act), or his legal representative, made, or threatened to be made, a party to any action, suit or proceeding (whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative) by reason of the fact that he is or was a corporate agent of this Company."

The New Jersey Business Corporation Act permits or requires indemnification of officers and directors in the event that certain statutory standards of conduct are met. Consistent with that statute, we have entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and certain officers whereby we have agreed to indemnify them to the fullest extent authorized or permitted by the New Jersey Business Corporation Act and advance them their defense, investigation, witness and/or participation fees and expenses, except in circumstances whereby a request for indemnification (a) is on account of an illegal remuneration to the indemnitee, (b) is for an accounting of the indemnitee's profits from the purchase or sale of BD's securities pursuant to Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act or any amendments thereto or similar provisions of any federal, state or local statutory law, (c) is based upon acts or omissions of the indemnitee which were in breach of the indemnitee's duty of loyalty to BD or its shareholders, were not in good faith or involved a knowing violation of law, or resulted in an improper personal benefit to the indemnitee, or (d) is unlawful.

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We maintain policies of insurance under which our directors and officers (as defined therein) are insured subject to specified exclusions and deductibles and maximum amounts against loss arising from any civil claim or claims which may be made against any director or officer (as so defined) of BD by reason of any breach of duty, neglect, error, misstatement, misleading statement, omission or act done or alleged to have been done while acting in their respective capacities.

Item 7. Exemption From Registration Claimed.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

4 Becton, Dickinson and Company 2004 Employee and Director Equity-Based Compensation Plan, as amended and restated as of March 23, 2004 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 of the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2004).

5 Opinion of Jeffrey S. Sherman, Vice President and General Counsel of the Company.

23(a) Consent of Independent Auditors.

23(b) Consent of Jeffrey S. Sherman (included in the opinion filed herewith as Exhibit 5).

Item 9. Undertakings.

A. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

B. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

C. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the Borough of Franklin Lakes, State of New Jersey, on the day of August 13, 2004.

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

By: /s/ Dean J. Paranicas

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

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on the 28th day of May, 2004.

Signature -----	Title -----
/s/ Edward J. Ludwig ----- Edward J. Ludwig	Director, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ Basil L. Anderson ----- Basil L. Anderson	Director
/s/ Harry N. Beaty, M.D. ----- Harry N. Beaty, M.D.	Director
/s/ Henry P. Becton, Jr. -----	Director

- 4 Becton, Dickinson and Company 2004
Employee and Director Equity-Based
Compensation Plan, as amended and
restated as of March 23, 2004
(incorporated by reference to
Exhibit 10 of the registrant's
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for
the quarterly period ended
March 31, 2004).
- 5 Opinion of Jeffrey S. Sherman,
Vice President and General Counsel.
- 23(a) Consent of Independent Auditors.
- 23(b) Consent of Jeffrey S. Sherman
(included in the opinion filed
herewith as Exhibit 5).

August 13, 2004

Becton, Dickinson and Company
1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417-1880

Re: Becton, Dickinson and Company
2004 Employee and Director
Equity-Based Compensation Plan
Form S-8 Registration Statement
Under the Securities Act of 1933

Gentlemen:

As Vice President and General Counsel of Becton, Dickinson and Company (the "Company"), I am familiar with all corporate action taken by the Company with respect to the adoption of the Company's 2004 Employee and Director Equity-Based Compensation Plan (the "Plan").

On the basis of the foregoing, it is my opinion that the Company has taken all necessary and appropriate corporate action in connection with the adoption of the Plan and the authorization for issuance of the shares thereunder, and that the shares when issued and sold in the manner referred to in the Plan, will constitute legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable shares of Common Stock of the Company.

This opinion is rendered to you solely in connection with the above matter. This opinion may not be relied upon by you for any other purpose, or relied upon by or furnished to any other person, without my prior written consent.

I consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5 to the above-captioned Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Jeffrey S. Sherman

Jeffrey S. Sherman
Vice President and
General Counsel

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) and related prospectus pertaining to the Becton, Dickinson and Company 2004 Employee and Director Equity-Based Compensation Plan of our report dated November 6, 2003 with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Becton, Dickinson and Company incorporated by reference in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended September 30, 2003 and the related financial statement schedule included therein, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP
ERNST & YOUNG LLP

New York, New York
August 13, 2004