

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

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 3)*

Becton, Dickinson and Company
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)

075887109
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2003
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this schedule is filed:

☒ Rule 13d-1(b)
☐ Rule 13d-1(c)
☐ Rule 13d-1(d)

The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)
Capital Research and Management Company
95-1411037

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE
INSTRUCTIONS)

(a)

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF
SHARES
BENEFICIA
L Y OWNED BY

NONE

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH
REPORTING
PERSON
WITH:

11,217,000

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

11,217,000 Beneficial ownership disclaimed pursuant to Rule 13d-4

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

4.5%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

Schedule 13G
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

mendment No. 3

tem 1(a) Name of Issuer:
Becton, Dickinson and Company

tem 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:
1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880

tem 2(a) Name of Person(s) Filing:
Capital Research and Management Company

tem 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none,
Residence:
333 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

tem 2(c) Citizenship: N/A

tem 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:
Common Stock

tem 2(e) CUSIP Number:
075887109

tem 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to sections 240.13d-1(b)
or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:
(e) ☒ An investment adviser in accordance with
 section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (E).

tem 4 Ownership

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate
number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer
identified in Item 1.

See page 2

- (a) Amount beneficially owned:
- (b) Percent of class:
- (c) Number of shares as to which the person has:
- (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:
- (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:
- (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
- (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

Capital Research and Management Company, an investment adviser
registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of
1940 is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 11,217,000 shares
or 4.5% of the 251,133,000 shares of Common Stock believed to
be outstanding as a result of acting as investment adviser to
various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the
Investment Company Act of 1940.

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tem 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class. If this
statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date
hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial
owner of more than five percent of the class of securities,
check the following: ☒

tem 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another
Person: N/A

tem 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which
Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding
Company or Control Person.: N/A

tem 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:
N/A

tem 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group: N/A

tem 10 Certification

By signing below, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge
and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and
are held in the ordinary course of business and were not
acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect
of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the
securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection
with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose
or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and
belief, I certify that the information set forth in this
statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 10, 2004

Signature: *Paul G. Haaga, Jr.

Name/Title: Paul G. Haaga, Jr., Executive Vice
President
Capital Research and Management Company

*By /s/ Anna J. Griffith
Anna J. Griffith
Attorney-in-fact

Signed pursuant to a Power of Attorney dated January 14,
2004 included as an Exhibit to Schedule 13G filed with
the Securities and Exchange Commission by Capital
Research and Management Company on February 6, 2004 with
respect to Air Products and Chemicals, Incorporated

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