

STATEMENT

2520043381786

This statement is being filed pursuant to 29 C.F.R. Section 2520.104-23 by Alleghany Corporation, as the plan administrator of the Alleghany Corporation Retirement Plan.

Name and Address of Employer: Alleghany Corporation, 375 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10152.

Employer identification number: 51-0283071.

Declaration: The employer maintains the Alleghany Corporation Retirement Plan (the "Plan") primarily for the purpose of providing deferred compensation for a select group of management or highly compensated employees of Alleghany Corporation. The Plan is unfunded in that benefits are paid as needed solely from the general assets of the employer.

Total Number of Plans Maintained: 2

Number of Employees in each Plan: 8

ALLEGHANY CORPORATION

Dated: September 17, 2004

By: Peter R. Sismondo
Name: Peter R. Sismondo
Title: Vice President

SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP

NEW YORK OFFICE
THE CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10174
TELEPHONE (212) 973-0111
FACSIMILE (212) 891-9598
WWW.SWIDLAW.COM

RICHARD D. BELFORD
TELEPHONE: (212) 891-9449
FACSIMILE: (212) 891-9598
RDBELFORD@SWIDLAW.COM

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
THE WASHINGTON HARBOUR
3000 K STREET, NW, SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5116
TELEPHONE: (202) 424-7500
FACSIMILE: (202) 424-7647

September 20, 2004

Via Certified Mail

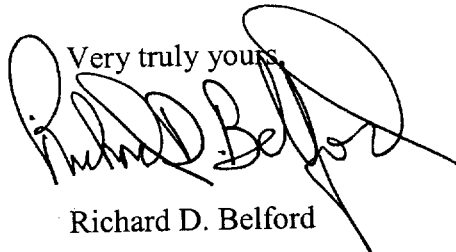
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Room N-1513
Top Hat Plan Exemption
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Re: Top Hat Plan Exemption Statement

Dear Sir or Madame:

Enclosed please find the top hat exemption statement being filed pursuant to 29 C.F.R. Section 2520.104-23 by Alleghany Corporation, as the plan administrator of the Alleghany Corporation Retirement Plan.

Very truly yours,



Richard D. Belford

Enclosure

SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP
THE CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10174

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE

CERTIFIED MAIL



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09/20/2004

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Via Certified Mail

Employee Benefits Security Administration
Room N-1513
Top Hat Plan Exemption
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

