

AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON AUGUST 2, 1996  
REGISTRATION NO. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.  
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

DELAWARE 91-1292054  
(STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF (I.R.S. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.)  
INCORPORATION OR ORGANIZATION)

19300 PACIFIC HIGHWAY SOUTH  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98188  
(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES, INCLUDING ZIP CODE)

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.  
1996 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE EQUITY PLAN  
(FULL TITLE OF THE PLAN)

STEVEN G. HAMILTON  
VICE PRESIDENT/LEGAL AND GENERAL COUNSEL  
ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.  
19300 PACIFIC HIGHWAY SOUTH  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98188  
(206) 433-3131

(NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE, OF AGENT FOR SERVICE)

COPY TO:

STEPHEN A. MCKEON  
PERKINS COIE  
1201 THIRD AVENUE, 40TH FLOOR  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101-3099  
(206) 583-8888

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

TITLE OF SECURITIES TO BE REGISTERED	NUMBER TO BE REGISTERED	PROPOSED MAXIMUM OFFERING PRICE PER SHARE (1)	PROPOSED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE OFFERING PRICE (1)	AMOUNT OF REGISTRATION FEE
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (2)	670,000 Shares (3)	\$23.625	\$15,828,750	\$5,459

- (1) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(c) solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee. The price per share is estimated to be \$23.625 based on the average of the high (\$24.125) and low (\$23.125) sales prices for the Common Stock on July 31, 1996, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange.
- (2) Includes rights to purchase Series A Participating Preferred Stock associated with the Common Stock.
- (3) Together with an indeterminate number of additional shares that may be necessary to adjust the number of shares reserved for issuance pursuant to the 1996 Long-Term Incentive Equity Plan as the result of any future stock dividend, stock split, spin-off, combination or exchange of shares, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, distribution to stockholders other than a normal cash dividend, or similar adjustment of the Registrant's outstanding Common Stock.

## PART II

## INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

## ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following documents are hereby incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement:

(a) The Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1995 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), which contains certified financial statements for the most recent fiscal year for which such statements have been filed;

(b) All other reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") since the end of the fiscal year covered by the Annual Report referred to in (a) above; and

(c) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission on September 19, 1985 (Registration No. 1-8957), under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date hereof and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment, which indicates that the securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters the securities covered hereby then remaining unsold, shall also be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof commencing on the respective dates on which such documents are filed.

## ITEM 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 145(a) of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL") provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise, against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 145(b) of the DGCL provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if such person acted under similar standards, except that no indemnification may be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine that despite the

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adjudication of liability, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to be indemnified for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

Section 145 of the DGCL further provides that to the extent a director or officer of a Delaware corporation has been successful in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections 145(a) and (b) or in the defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection

therewith; that indemnification provided for by Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; and that the corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a director or officer of the corporation against any liability asserted against such person or incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liabilities under Section 145.

Article VIII of the Registrant's By-Laws requires indemnification to the full extent permitted by the DGCL or other applicable law. Subject to any restrictions imposed by such law, the By-Laws provide a right to indemnification for all expense, liability and loss (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, ERISA excise taxes or penalties and amounts to be paid in settlement) actually and reasonably incurred or suffered by the indemnitee in connection with any actual or threatened action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of the Registrant or, being or having been such a director, officer or an employee of the Registrant, he or she is or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or other entity. The By-Laws also provide that, by action of its Board of Directors, the Registrant may approve indemnification of any other person whom it has the power to indemnify under DGCL.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL provides that a corporation in its original certificate of incorporation or an amendment thereto validly approved by stockholders may eliminate or limit personal liability of members of its board of directors or governing body for breach of a director's fiduciary duty. However, no such provision may eliminate or limit the liability of a director for breaching his or her duty of loyalty, failing to act in good faith, engaging in intentional misconduct or knowingly violating a law, paying a dividend or approving a stock repurchase that was illegal or obtaining an improper personal benefit. A provision of this type has no effect on the availability of equitable remedies, such as injunction or rescission, for breach of fiduciary duty. The Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation contains such a provision.

The Registrant's officers and directors are covered by insurance (with certain exceptions and with certain limitations) which indemnifies them against losses and liabilities arising from certain alleged "wrongful acts," including alleged errors or misstatements, or certain other alleged wrongful acts or omissions constituting neglect or breach of duty.

#### ITEM 8. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number -----	Description -----
5.1	Opinion of Perkins Coie regarding legality of the Common Stock being registered
23.1	Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP

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23.2	Consent of Perkins Coie (included in opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Powers of Attorney (see page II-5)
99.1	Alaska Air Group, Inc. 1996 Long-Term Incentive Equity Plan

#### 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:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, 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.

(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, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to 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 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 Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities 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

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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 Securities 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, as amended, 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 City of Seattle, State of Washington, on the 31st day of July, 1996.

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

By /s/ John F. Kelly  
-----  
John F. Kelly  
Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and  
President

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose individual signature appears below hereby authorizes John F. Kelly and Harry G. Lehr and each of them as his or her attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution, to execute in the name and on behalf of such person, individually and in each capacity stated below, and to file, any and all amendments to this Registration Statement, including any and all post-effective amendments, with the Securities and Exchange Commission or any regulatory authority.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities indicated on the 31st day of July, 1996.

SIGNATURE -----	TITLE -----
/s/John F. Kelly ----- John F. Kelly	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ Harry G. Lehr ----- Harry G. Lehr	Senior Vice President/Finance (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
/s/ Bradley D. Tilden ----- Bradley D. Tilden	Controller
/s/ William H. Clapp ----- William H. Clapp	Director
/s/ Ronald F. Cosgrave ----- Ronald F. Cosgrave	Director

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/s/ Mary Jane Fate ----- Mary Jane Fate	Director
/s/ Bruce R. Kennedy ----- Bruce R. Kennedy	Director
/s/ R. Marc Langland ----- R. Marc Langland	Director
/s/ Byron I. Mallott ----- Byron I. Mallott	Director
/s/ Robert L. Parker, Jr. ----- Robert L. Parker, Jr.	Director

/s/ Richard A. Wien

Director

-----  
Richard A. Wien

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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24.1	Powers of Attorney (see page II-5)
99.1	Alaska Air Group, Inc. 1996 Long-Term Incentive Equity Plan

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EXHIBIT 5.1

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PERKINS COIE  
A LAW PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS  
1201 THIRD AVENUE, 40TH FLOOR, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101-3099  
TELEPHONE: (206) 583-8888 FACSIMILE (206) 583-8500

July 31, 1996

Alaska Air Group, Inc.  
19300 Pacific Highway South  
Seattle, Washington 98188

RE: REGISTRATION ON FORM S-8 OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE  
\$1.00 PER SHARE, OF ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. (THE "COMPANY")

Gentlemen and Ladies:

We have acted as counsel to you in connection with the preparation of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), which you are filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to 670,000 shares of Common Stock, \$1.00 par value per share, of the Company (the "Shares"), which are to be issued pursuant to the Alaska Air Group, Inc. 1996 Long-Term Incentive Equity Plan (the "Plan").

We have examined the Registration Statement and such documents and records of the Company and other documents as we have deemed necessary for the purpose of this opinion. In giving this opinion, we are assuming the authenticity of all instruments presented to us as originals, the conformity with originals of all instruments presented to us as copies and the genuineness of all signatures.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, we are of the opinion that the Shares that will be issued pursuant to the Plan have been duly authorized and that, upon the due execution by the Company and the registration by its registrars of the Shares, issuance thereof by the Company and receipt of the consideration therefor in accordance with the terms of the Plan, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act.

Very truly yours,

PERKINS COIE

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EXHIBIT 23.1

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CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

As independent public accountants, we hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this registration statement on Form S-8 of our report dated January 25, 1996 included in Alaska Air Group, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1995, and to all references to our Firm included in this registration statement.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

Seattle, Washington  
July 31, 1996



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EXHIBIT 99.1

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ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.  
1996 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE EQUITY PLAN

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Alaska Air Group, Inc. 1996 Long-Term Incentive Equity Plan (the "Plan") is to promote the long-term profitability of Alaska Air Group, Inc. (the "Company") and to enhance value for its stockholders by offering incentives and rewards to key employees and officers of the Company, to retain their services and to encourage them to acquire and maintain stock ownership in the Company.

2. TERM

The Plan shall become effective upon its approval by the Company's stockholders and shall terminate at the close of business on the fifth anniversary of such approval date unless terminated earlier by the Board (as defined in Section 3). After termination of the Plan, no future awards may be granted but previously granted awards shall remain outstanding in accordance with their applicable terms and conditions and the terms and conditions of the Plan.

3. PLAN ADMINISTRATION

The Compensation Committee (the "Committee") of the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") shall be responsible for administering the Plan. The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board and shall consist of three or more nonemployee members of the Board who shall qualify to administer the Plan as contemplated by (a) Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or any successor rules, and (b) Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The Committee shall have full and exclusive power to interpret the Plan and to adopt such rules, regulations and guidelines for carrying out the Plan as it may deem necessary or proper, all of which power shall be executed in the best interests of the Company and in keeping with the objectives of the Plan. This power includes but is not limited to selecting award recipients, establishing all award terms and conditions and adopting modifications, amendments and procedures, as well as rules and regulations governing awards under the Plan, and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. In no event, however, shall the Committee have the power to cancel outstanding stock options or stock appreciation rights ("SARs") for the purpose of replacing or regranting such options or SARs with a purchase price that is less than the purchase price of the original option or SAR. The interpretation and construction of any provision of the Plan or any option or right granted hereunder and all determinations by the Committee in each case shall be final, binding and conclusive with respect to all interested parties.

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4. ELIGIBILITY

Any employee of the Company shall be eligible to receive awards under the Plan. "Employee" shall also include any former employee of the Company eligible to receive an assumed or replacement award as contemplated in Sections 5 and 8, and "Company" includes any entity that is directly or indirectly controlled by the Company or any entity in which the Company has a significant equity interest, as determined by the Committee, except that with respect to incentive stock options ("ISOs") intended to comply with Section 422 of the Code, "Company" includes only any parent or subsidiary of the Company in accordance with Section 422 of the Code.

5. SHARES OF COMMON STOCK SUBJECT TO THE PLAN

Subject to the provisions of Section 6 of the Plan, the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock (\$1.00 par value) of the Company ("shares") which may be transferred to participants under the Plan shall be 670,000. The aggregate number of shares that may be issued under awards pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Plan shall not exceed 335,000 shares. No more than 67,000 shares may be issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Plan as stock awards subject to restrictions based solely on continuous employment of less than three (3) years.

The aggregate number of shares that may be covered by awards granted to any single individual under the Plan shall not exceed 300,000 shares for any consecutive three-year period, such limitation to be applied in a manner consistent with the requirements of, and only to the extent required for compliance with, the exclusion from the limitation on deductibility of compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code. The aggregate number of shares that may be represented by ISOs shall not exceed 670,000.

Shares subject to awards under the Plan which expire, terminate or are canceled prior to exercise or, in the case of awards granted under Section 8(c), do not vest shall thereafter be available for the granting of other awards. Shares otherwise issuable pursuant to an award which have been exchanged by a participant as full or partial payment to the Company in connection with any award under the Plan also shall thereafter be available for the granting of other awards. In instances where an SAR or other award is settled in cash, the shares covered by such award shall remain available for the granting of other awards. Likewise, the payment of cash dividends and dividend equivalents paid in cash in conjunction with outstanding awards shall not be counted against the shares available for issuance.

Any shares issued under the Plan may consist in whole or in part of authorized and unissued shares or of treasury shares, and no fractional shares shall be issued under the Plan. Cash may be paid in lieu of any fractional shares in settlements of awards under the Plan.

#### 6. ADJUSTMENTS AND REORGANIZATIONS

In the event of any stock dividend, stock split, combination or exchange of shares, merger, consolidation, spin-off, recapitalization or other distribution (other than normal cash dividends) of Company assets to stockholders, or any other change affecting shares or share

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price, the Committee shall make a proportionate adjustment with respect to: (a) the aggregate number of shares that may be issued under the Plan; (b) each outstanding award made under the Plan; and (c) the exercise price per share for any outstanding stock options, SARs or similar awards under the Plan.

#### 7. FAIR MARKET VALUE

Fair Market Value for all purposes under the Plan shall mean the closing price of a share of Common Stock as reported daily in The Wall Street Journal or similar readily available public source for the date in question. If no sales of shares were made on such date, the closing price of a share as reported for the preceding day on which a sale of shares occurred shall be used.

#### 8. AWARDS

The Committee shall determine the type or types of award(s) to be made to each participant. Awards may be granted singly, in combination or in tandem. Awards also may be made in combination or in tandem with, in replacement of, as alternative to, or as the payment form for grants or rights under any other compensation plan or individual contract or agreement of the Company including those of any acquired entity. The types of awards that may be granted under the Plan are:

(a) Stock Options--This is a grant of a right to purchase a specified number of shares during a specified period as determined by the Committee. The purchase price per share for each stock option shall be not less than 100% of Fair Market Value on the date of grant (except if a stock option is granted retroactively in tandem with or as a substitution for an SAR, the exercise price may be no lower than the exercise price per share for such tandem or replaced SAR). A stock option may be in the form of an ISO which, in addition to being subject to applicable terms, conditions and limitations established by the Committee, complies with Section 422 of the Code. The exercise price for a stock option shall be paid in full by the optionee at the time of the exercise in cash or such other method permitted by the Committee, including (i) tendering (either actually or by attestation) shares, (ii) authorizing a third party to sell the shares (or a sufficient portion thereof) acquired upon exercise of a stock option and assigning the delivery to the Company of a sufficient amount of the sale proceeds to pay for all the shares acquired through such exercise, or (iii) any combination of the above.

(b) SARs--This is a right to receive a payment, in cash and/or shares, equal to the excess of the Fair Market Value of a specified number of shares on the date the SAR is exercised over the Fair Market Value on the date the SAR was granted (except that if an SAR is granted retroactively in tandem with or in substitution for a stock option, the designated Fair Market Value shall be no lower than the exercise price per share for such tandem or replaced stock option).

(c) Stock Awards--This is an award made or denominated in shares or units equivalent in value to shares. All or part of any stock award may be subject to conditions and

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restrictions established by the Committee which may be based on continuous service with the Company or the achievement of performance goals related to profits, profit growth, profit-related return ratios, cash flow or shareholder returns, where such goals may be stated in absolute terms or relative to comparison companies.

#### 9. DIVIDENDS AND DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS

The Committee may provide that any awards under the Plan earn dividends or dividend equivalents. Such dividends or dividend equivalents may be paid currently or may be credited to a participant's account. Any crediting of dividends or dividend equivalents may be subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Committee may establish, including reinvestment in additional shares or share equivalents.

#### 10. DEFERRALS AND SETTLEMENTS

Payment of awards may be in the form of cash, stock, other awards or combinations thereof as the Committee shall determine, and with such restrictions as it may impose. The Committee also may require or permit participants to elect to defer the issuance of shares or the settlement of awards in cash under such rules and procedures as it may establish under the Plan. It also may provide that deferred settlements include the payment or crediting of interest on the deferral amounts, or the payment or crediting of dividend equivalents where the deferral amounts are denominated in shares.

#### 11. TRANSFERABILITY AND EXERCISABILITY

Awards granted under the Plan shall not be transferable or assignable other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, except to the extent permitted by the Committee, in its sole discretion, and by Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and, with respect to ISOs, by Section 422 of the Code. However, any award so transferred shall continue to be subject to all the terms and conditions contained in the instrument evidencing such award.

#### 12. AWARD AGREEMENTS

Awards under the Plan shall be evidenced by agreements as approved by the Committee that set forth the terms, conditions and limitations for each award which may include the term of an award (except that in no event shall the term of any ISO exceed a period of ten years from the date of its grant), the provisions applicable in the event the participant's employment terminates, and the Committee's authority to unilaterally or bilaterally amend, modify, suspend, cancel or rescind any award.

#### 13. ACCELERATION AND SETTLEMENT OF AWARDS

The Committee shall have the discretion, exercisable at any time before a sale, merger, consolidation, reorganization, liquidation or change in control in the Company, as defined by the Committee, to provide for the acceleration of vesting and for settlement, including cash

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payment, of an award granted under the Plan upon or immediately before such event is effective. However, the granting of awards under the Plan shall in no way affect the right of the Company to adjust, reclassify, reorganize, or

otherwise change its capital or business structured or to merge, consolidate, dissolve, liquidate, sell or transfer all or any portion of its businesses or assets.

14. PLAN AMENDMENT

The Plan may be amended only by the Board as it deems necessary or appropriate to better achieve the purposes of the Plan, except that no such amendment shall be made without the approval of the Company's stockholders which would increase the number of shares available for issuance in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of the Plan, or cause the Plan not to comply with Rule 16b-3 (or any successor rule) under the Exchange Act.

15. TAX WITHHOLDING

The Company shall have the right to deduct from any settlement of an award made under the Plan, including the delivery or vesting of shares, a sufficient amount to cover withholding of any federal, state or local taxes required by law, or to take such other action as may be necessary to satisfy any such withholding obligations. The Committee may, in its discretion and subject to such rules as it may adopt, permit participants to use shares to satisfy required tax withholding, and such shares shall be valued at the Fair Market Value as of the settlement date of the applicable award.

16. OTHER BENEFIT AND COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise specifically determined by the Committee and not inconsistent with the terms of any benefit plan, severance program or severance pay law, settlements of awards received by participants under the Plan shall not be deemed a part of a participant's regular, recurring compensation for purposes of calculating payments or benefits from any Company benefit plan, severance program or severance pay law. Further, the Company may adopt other compensation programs, plans or arrangements as it deems appropriate or necessary.

17. UNFUNDED PLAN

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the Plan shall be unfunded and shall not create (or be construed to create) a trust or a separate fund or funds. The Plan shall not establish any fiduciary relationship between the Company and any participant or other person. To the extent any person holds any rights by virtue of an award granted under the Plan, such rights (unless otherwise determined by the Committee) shall be no greater than the rights of an unsecured general creditor of the Company.

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18. USE OF PROCEEDS

The cash proceeds received by the Company from the issuance of shares pursuant to awards under the Plan shall constitute general funds of the Company.

19. REGULATORY APPROVALS

The implementation of the Plan, the granting of any award under the Plan, and the issuance of shares upon the exercise or settlement of any award shall be subject to the Company's procurement of all approvals and permits required by regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over the Plan, the awards granted under it or the shares issued pursuant to it.

20. FUTURE RIGHTS

No person shall have any claim or rights to be granted an award under the Plan, and no participant shall have any rights under the Plan to be retained in the employ of the Company.

21. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

The Plan shall be binding on all successors and assigns of a participant including, without limitation, the estate of such participant and the executor, administrator or trustee of such estate, or any receiver or trustee in bankruptcy or representative of the participant's creditors.