

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 4)\*

Ashland Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

044204105

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2001

(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)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

NUMBER OF  
SHARES

BENEFICIAALLY OWNED BY

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

5,778,800

EACH  
REPORTING

PERSON  
WITH:

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIAALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

5,778,800 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

8.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

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1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)  
Washington Mutual Investors Fund, Inc.  
52-0793788

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

Maryland

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

3,680,000

NUMBER OF  
SHARES

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH  
REPORTING

NONE

PERSON  
WITH:

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

3,680,000

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

5.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IV

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

Schedule 13G  
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Amendment No. 4

Item 1(a) Name of issuer:  
Ashland Inc.

Item 1(b) Address of issuer's principal executive offices:  
50 E. River Center Blvd.  
P.O. Box 391  
Covington, KY 41012-0391

Item 2(a) Name of person(s) filing:  
Capital Research and Management Company and Washington Mutual  
Investors Fund, Inc.

Item 2(b) Address or principal business office or, if none, residence:

Item 2(c) Citizenship: N/A

Item 2(d) Title of class of securities:  
Common Stock

Item 2(e) CUSIP No.:  
044204105

Item 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to sections 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filings is a:  
(d)  Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).  
(e)  An investment adviser in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E).

Item 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 pages 2 and 3

- (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:

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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 5,778,800 shares or 8.3% of the 69,525,000 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.

Washington Mutual Investors Fund, Inc., an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which is advised by Capital Research and Management Company, is the beneficial owner of 3,680,000 shares or 5.3% of the 69,525,000 shares of Common Stock believed to be outstanding.

Item 5 Ownership of 5 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 5 percent of the class of securities, check the following: [ ]

Item 6 Ownership of More than 5% on Behalf of Another Person: N/A

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

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

Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group: N/A

Item 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 11, 2002

Signature: \*Paul G. Haaga, Jr.

Name/Title: Paul G. Haaga, Jr., Executive Vice  
President

Capital Research and Management Company

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Date: February 11, 2002

Signature: \*Howard L. Kitzmiller

Name/Title: Howard L. Kitzmiller, Senior Vice  
President

Washington Mutual Investors Fund, Inc.

\*By /s/ James P. Ryan

James P. Ryan  
Attorney-in-fact

Signed pursuant to a Power of Attorney dated January 9, 2002 included as an Exhibit to Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Capital Research and Management Company on January 10, 2002 with respect to HotJobs.Com, Ltd.

AGREEMENT

Los Angeles, CA  
February 11, 2002

Capital Research and Management Company ("CRMC") and Washington Mutual Investors Fund, Inc. ("WMIF") hereby agree to file a joint statement on Schedule 13G under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") in connection with their beneficial ownership of Common Stock issued by Ashland Inc.

CRMC and WMIF state that they are each entitled to individually use Schedule 13G pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c) of the Act.

CRMC and WMIF are each responsible for the timely filing of the statement and any amendments thereto, and for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning each of them contained therein but are not responsible for the completeness or accuracy of the information concerning the others.

CAPITAL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT COMPANY

BY: \*Paul G. Haaga, Jr.  
  
Paul G. Haaga, Jr., Executive  
Vice President  
Capital Research and Management  
Company

WASHINGTON MUTUAL INVESTORS FUND, INC.

BY: \*Howard L. Kitzmiller  
  
Howard L. Kitzmiller, Senior  
Vice President  
Washington Mutual Investors  
Fund, Inc.

\*By /s/ James P. Ryan

James P. Ryan  
Attorney-in-fact

Signed pursuant to a Power of Attorney dated January 9, 2002 included as an Exhibit to Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Capital Research and Management Company on January 10, 2002 with respect to HotJobs.Com, Ltd.

