

STANLEY WORKS
Form 424B5
July 31, 2009
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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration No. 333-153646

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common stock, \$2.50 par value per share	\$50,000,000	\$2,790(1)

-

- (1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This Calculation of Registration Fee table shall be deemed to update the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3ASR (File No. 333-153646).

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated September 24, 2008)

\$50,000,000

The Stanley Works

Common Stock

We have entered into an equity distribution agreement, dated May 4, 2009, with UBS Securities LLC relating to shares of our common stock, par value \$2.50 per share, offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In accordance with the terms of the equity distribution agreement, we may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time through UBS Securities LLC, as our sales agent. This prospectus supplement relates to the offer and sale of shares of common stock having an aggregate gross sales price of up to \$50,000,000 that will be sold in ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, in block transactions or as otherwise agreed with UBS Securities LLC. We will pay UBS Securities LLC a commission equal to 2% of the gross sales price per share of shares sold through it as agent under the equity distribution agreement. If and when we offer additional shares of common stock under the equity distribution agreement, we will describe the offering in a separate prospectus supplement.

UBS Securities LLC is not required to sell any specific number or dollar amount of shares of our common stock but has agreed, subject to the terms and conditions of the equity distribution agreement, to use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell the shares offered hereby as our agent. There is no arrangement for shares to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

Under the terms of the equity distribution agreement, we also may sell shares of our common stock to UBS Securities LLC as principal for its own account at a price agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares to UBS Securities LLC as principal, we will enter into a separate terms agreement with UBS Securities LLC and we will describe that agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

Our common stock is listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SWK. On July 30, 2009, the last reported sales price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$39.62 per share.

See **Risk factors** beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement to read about important factors you should consider before investing in our common stock.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

UBS Investment Bank

The date of this prospectus supplement is July 31, 2009.

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About this prospectus supplement

You should rely only upon the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents they incorporate by reference. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor the sales agent are making an offer to sell the common stock in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

This prospectus supplement contains the terms of this offering of common stock. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. In addition, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may have added, updated or changed information in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with any information in the accompanying prospectus (or any information incorporated herein or therein by reference), this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede such information.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents they incorporate by reference in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the additional information described under the caption [Where you can find more information](#).

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Summary

*This summary contains basic information about us and this offering. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our common stock. You should read this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference carefully, including the sections entitled *Risk Factors*, in this prospectus supplement, as well as the section entitled *Risk Factors* in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and any updates to such risks in subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and our financial statements and the notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement before making an investment decision. Unless otherwise indicated, all references in this prospectus supplement to the Company, Stanley, we, our, us, or similar terms mean The Stanley Works and its subsidiaries.*

THE COMPANY

The Stanley Works was founded in 1843 by Frederick T. Stanley and incorporated in 1852. We are a diversified worldwide supplier of tools and engineered solutions for professional, industrial and construction & do-it-yourself use, as well as engineered security solutions for industrial and commercial applications. Stanley® is a brand recognized around the world for quality and value.

Our principal executive office is located at 1000 Stanley Drive, New Britain, Connecticut 06053 and our telephone number is (860) 225-5111.

Business Segments

The Company's operations are classified into three business segments: Security, Industrial, and Construction & Do-It-Yourself.

Security

The Security segment is a provider of access and security solutions primarily for retailers, educational, financial and healthcare institutions, as well as commercial, governmental and industrial customers. The Company provides an extensive suite of mechanical and electronic security products and systems, and a variety of security services. These include security integration systems, software, related installation, maintenance, monitoring services, engineered healthcare storage solutions, automatic doors, door closers, exit devices, hardware and locking mechanisms. Security products are sold primarily on a direct sales basis and in certain instances, through third party distributors.

Industrial

The Industrial segment manufactures and markets: professional industrial and automotive mechanics tools and storage systems; plumbing, heating and air conditioning tools; hydraulic tools and accessories; assembly tools and systems; and specialty tools. These products are sold to industrial customers and distributed primarily through third party distributors as well as through direct sales forces.

Professional mechanics tools and storage systems include wrenches, sockets, electronic diagnostic tools, tool boxes and high-density industrial storage and retrieval systems. Hydraulic tools and accessories include hand-held hydraulic tools and accessories used by contractors, utilities, railroads and public

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works as well as mounted demolition hammers and compactors designed to work on skid steer loaders, mini-excavators, backhoes and large excavators. Plumbing, heating and air conditioning tools include pipe wrenches, pliers, press fitting tools, and tubing cutters. Assembly tools and systems include electric and pneumatic assembly tools; these are high performance precision tools, controllers and systems for tightening threaded fasteners used chiefly by vehicle manufacturers. Specialty tools are used for assembling, repairing and testing electronic equipment.

Construction & DIY

The Construction & Do-It-Yourself (CDIY) segment manufactures and markets hand tools, consumer mechanics tools, storage systems, pneumatic tools and fasteners. These products are sold to professional end users as well as consumers, and are distributed through retailers (including home centers, mass merchants, hardware stores, and retail lumber yards). Hand tools include measuring and leveling tools, planes, hammers, demolition tools, knives and blades, screwdrivers, saws, chisels and consumer tackers. Consumer mechanics tools include wrenches and sockets. Storage systems include plastic tool boxes and storage units. Pneumatic tools and fasteners include nail guns, staplers, nails and staples that are used for construction, remodeling, furniture making, pallet manufacturing and other applications involving the attachment of wooden materials.

Competition

The Company competes on the basis of its reputation for product quality, its well-known brands, its commitment to customer service, strong customer relationships, the breadth of its product lines and its emphasis on product innovation.

The Company encounters active competition in all of its businesses from both larger and smaller companies that offer the same or similar products and services or that produce different products appropriate for the same uses. The Company has a large number of competitors; however, aside from a small number of competitors in the consumer hand tool and consumer hardware businesses who produce a range of products somewhat comparable to the Company's, the majority of its competitors compete only with respect to one or more individual products or product lines in that segment. Certain large customers offer private label brands that compete across a wider spectrum of the Company's CDIY segment product offerings. The Company is one of the largest manufacturers of hand tools in the world. The Company is a significant manufacturer of pneumatic fastening tools and related fasteners for the construction, furniture and pallet industries as well as a leading manufacturer of hydraulic tools used for heavy construction, railroad, utilities and public works. The Company also believes that it is among the largest direct providers of access security integration and alarm monitoring services in North America.

Customers

A substantial portion of the Company's products are sold to home centers and mass merchants in the U.S. and Europe. A consolidation of retailers both in North America and abroad has occurred over time. While this consolidation and the domestic and international expansion of these large retailers provide the Company with opportunities for growth, the increasing size and importance of individual customers creates a certain degree of exposure to potential volume loss. The loss of certain of the larger home centers or mass merchants as customers could have a material adverse effect on the Company until either such customers were replaced or the Company made the necessary adjustments to compensate for the loss of business. Despite the trend toward customer consolidation, the Company has been able to

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maintain a diversified customer base and has decreased customer concentration risk over the past years, as sales from continuing operations in markets outside of the home center and mass merchant distribution channels have grown at a greater rate through a combination of acquisitions and other efforts to broaden the customer base, primarily in the Security and Industrial segments. In this regard, sales to the Company's largest customer as a percentage of total sales have decreased from 22% in 2002 to 6% in 2008.

Within the Security segment, a large portion of sales are generated in the retail sector. The Security segment also has significant sales to commercial, governmental and educational customers.

Raw Materials

The Company's products are manufactured using both ferrous and non-ferrous metals including, but not limited to steel, aluminum, zinc, brass, copper and nickel, as well as resin. Additionally, the Company uses other commodity based materials for components and packaging including, but not limited to, plastics, wood, and other corrugated products. The raw materials required are procured globally and available from multiple sources at competitive prices. The Company does not anticipate difficulties in obtaining supplies for any raw materials or energy used in its production processes.

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The offering

Issuer	The Stanley Works
Common stock offered	Shares of common stock having an aggregate gross sales price of up to \$50,000,000.
Use of proceeds	We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of common stock that we may offer under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for general corporate purposes. See Use of proceeds.
New York Stock Exchange symbol	SWK
Risk factors	An investment in our common stock involves risks and you should carefully consider the matters referred to under Risk factors in this prospectus supplement, as well as the other risks described in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference.

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Risk factors

Your investment in our common stock involves certain risks. In consultation with your own financial and legal advisers, you should carefully consider, among other matters, the following discussion of risks and the discussion of risks relating to our business under the caption "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and any updates to such risks in subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q before deciding whether an investment in our common stock is suitable for you. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, results of operations and financial condition may suffer. As a result, the trading price of our common stock may decline, and you might lose part or all of your investment.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR COMMON STOCK AND THE OFFERING

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, which could cause the value of your investment to decline.

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside our control. In addition, the stock market is subject to fluctuations in share prices and trading volumes that affect the market prices of the shares of many companies. These broad market fluctuations have adversely affected, and may in the future adversely affect, the market price of our common stock. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are:

- ∅ actual or anticipated variations in our operating results or dividends;
- ∅ changes in our funds from operations or earnings estimates;
- ∅ changes in revenue or earnings estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts or actions taken by rating agencies with respect to our securities or those of other comparable companies;
- ∅ increases in market interest rates that lead purchasers of our shares to demand a higher dividend yield;
- ∅ strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;
- ∅ changes in market valuations of similar companies;
- ∅ adverse market reaction to any additional debt we incur in the future and our ability to repay our debt;
- ∅ additions or departures of key management personnel;

Ø actions by institutional stockholders;

Ø speculation in the press or investment community;

Ø the realization of any of the other risk factors included in, or incorporated by reference to, this prospectus supplement; and

Ø general domestic and international economic factors.

Many of the factors listed above are beyond our control. These factors may cause the market price of our common stock to decline, regardless of our financial condition, results of operations, business or prospects. It is impossible to assure holders that the market price of our common stock will not fall in the future.

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Risk factors

There may be future dilution of our common stock.

Our restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to, among other things, issue additional shares of common or preferred stock or securities convertible or exchangeable into equity securities, without stockholder approval. We may issue such additional equity or convertible securities to raise additional capital. The issuance of any additional shares of common or preferred stock or convertible securities could be substantially dilutive to stockholders of our common stock. Moreover, to the extent that we issue restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, options, or warrants to purchase our common stock in the future and those stock appreciation rights, options, or warrants are exercised or the restricted stock units vest, our stockholders may experience further dilution. Holders of our shares of common stock have no preemptive rights that entitle them to purchase their pro rata share of any offering of shares of any class or series and, therefore, such sales or offerings could result in increased dilution to our stockholders.

Sales and resales of our common stock in the public market in connection with and following the offering may cause its market price to fall.

We may issue shares of our common stock with an aggregate sales price of up to \$50,000,000 in connection with this offering. The issuance and sale, and any subsequent resale, of these new shares could have the effect of depressing the market price for shares of our common stock.

Provisions in our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and other agreements, and of Connecticut law, may prevent or delay an acquisition of our company, which could decrease the market value of our common stock.

The rights of our shareholders and related matters are governed by the Connecticut Business Corporation Act (the "CBCA"), our certificate of incorporation, our bylaws and the Rights Agreement, dated January 19, 2006 (the "Rights Agreement"). Provisions of the CBCA, our certificate of incorporation, our bylaws and the Rights Agreement, which are summarized under "Description of Capital Stock" in the accompanying prospectus, may discourage or make more difficult a takeover attempt that our shareholders might consider in their best interest. The existence of these provisions could limit the price that investors might be willing to pay in the future for our common stock.

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Use of proceeds

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the common stock that we may offer under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, after deduction for offering expenses, for general corporate purposes.

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Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the abbreviated ticker symbol SWK, and is a component of the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index. The Company's high and low quarterly stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange for the periods indicated, and the dividends paid per share of our common stock, follow:

	Price per Share of Common Stock		Dividends Paid Per Share
	High	Low	
Fiscal year ended December 29, 2007			
First Quarter	\$ 58.99	\$ 49.95	\$ 0.30
Second Quarter	63.68	54.63	0.30
Third Quarter	64.25	52.41	0.31
Fourth Quarter	58.99	47.01	0.31
Fiscal year ended January 3, 2009			
First Quarter	\$ 52.18	\$ 43.69	\$ 0.31
Second Quarter	51.08	44.50	0.31
Third Quarter	49.58	40.56	0.32
Fourth Quarter	43.93	24.19	0.32
Fiscal year ending January 2, 2010			
First Quarter	\$ 36.68	\$ 22.61	\$ 0.32
Second Quarter	40.05	29.66	0.32
Third Quarter (through July 30, 2009)	39.79	31.28	0.33 ⁽¹⁾

(1) We declared a dividend of \$0.33 per share on our common stock on July 20, 2009 that is payable on September 22, 2009 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on September 4, 2009.

The reported last sale price for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on July 30, 2009 was \$39.62 per share. At July 30, 2009, there were 79,355,462 shares of our common stock outstanding held by approximately 12,475 registered stockholders.

Dividend policy

We expect to continue to pay quarterly cash dividends on our common stock in the future. The declaration and payment of cash dividends, quarterly or otherwise, on our common stock are not guaranteed. The declaration and payment of future dividends to holders of our common stock will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon many factors, including our financial condition, earnings, legal requirements and other factors as our board of directors deems relevant.

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Plan of distribution

We have entered into an equity distribution agreement with UBS Securities LLC. Subject to the terms and conditions of the equity distribution agreement, we may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time through UBS Securities LLC, as our sales agent. This prospectus supplement relates to the offer and sale of shares of common stock having an aggregate gross sales price of up to \$50,000,000. The shares of common stock offered hereby will be sold in ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, in block transactions or as otherwise agreed with UBS Securities LLC. As agent, UBS Securities LLC will not engage in any transactions that stabilize our common stock. If and when we offer additional shares of common stock under the equity distribution agreement, we will describe the offering in a separate prospectus supplement.

On the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the equity distribution agreement, UBS Securities LLC has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell the shares of our common stock offered hereby as sales agent. Shares may be offered and sold on a daily basis or as otherwise agreed upon by UBS Securities LLC and us. We will designate the maximum amount of common stock to be sold through UBS Securities LLC on a daily basis or otherwise as we and UBS Securities LLC agree. We may instruct UBS Securities LLC not to sell shares of common stock if the sales cannot be effected at or above the price designated by us in any such instruction. We or UBS Securities LLC may suspend or terminate the offering of shares of common stock by notifying the other.

We will pay UBS Securities LLC a commission equal to 2% of the gross sales price per share of shares sold through it as agent under the equity distribution agreement. The remaining sales proceeds, after deducting offering expenses payable by us and any transaction fees imposed by any governmental or self-regulatory organization in connection with the sale, will equal our net proceeds for the sale of the shares. We have agreed to reimburse UBS Securities LLC for certain of its expenses.

We have agreed not to sell, contract to sell, hypothecate, pledge, grant any option to sell or otherwise dispose of or agree to dispose of, directly or indirectly, or permit the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission thereunder (collectively, the Securities Act) of any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common stock or warrants or other rights to purchase our common stock or any of our other securities that are substantially similar to our common stock, in each case without giving UBS Securities LLC at least three business days' prior written notice, subject to certain exceptions, including pursuant to this offering of common stock, pursuant to our employee benefit plans and issuances upon conversion of outstanding securities, existing contractual arrangements or the exercise of outstanding options or warrants. If we notify UBS Securities LLC of a proposed sale, it may suspend sales of common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement.

Settlement for sales of common stock will occur on the third business day following the date on which such sales are made, unless another settlement date is agreed upon, in return for payment of the net proceeds to us. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

Under the terms of the equity distribution agreement, we also may sell shares to UBS Securities LLC as principal for its own account at a price agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares to UBS Securities LLC as principal, we will enter into a separate terms agreement with UBS Securities LLC and we will describe that agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

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Plan of distribution

In connection with the sale of the common stock on our behalf, UBS Securities LLC may be deemed an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to UBS Securities LLC against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA), the maximum discount or commission to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate offering price of the shares offered hereby.

An affiliate of UBS Securities LLC is a lender under our Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated February 27, 2008, as amended by Amendment No. 1 dated as of February 17, 2009, and UBS Securities LLC and its affiliates have provided and may in the future provide certain commercial banking, financial advisory and investment banking services to us in the ordinary course of business for which they have received and may in the future receive compensation.

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Where you can find more information

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and the rules promulgated thereunder (the Exchange Act). Our SEC filings are available to the public at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may read and copy all or any portion of this information at the Public Reference Section of the SEC, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference rooms. We maintain a website at www.stanleyworks.com. The information on our web site is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

You can also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about The Stanley Works at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, except for any information superseded by information contained directly in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any subsequently filed document deemed incorporated by reference. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that The Stanley Works has previously filed with the SEC (other than information deemed furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including Items 2.02 and 7.01 of Form 8-K). These documents contain important information about The Stanley Works and its finances.

Ø Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2009;

Ø Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended April 4, 2009 and July 4, 2009;

Ø Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 23, 2009 and July 9, 2009; and

Ø The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on March 24, 1986, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and before the termination of the offering shall also be deemed to be incorporated herein by reference. We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including our compensation committee report and performance graph or any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K.

To obtain a copy of these filings at no cost, you may write or telephone us at the following address:

The Stanley Works

1000 Stanley Drive

New Britain, Connecticut 06053

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Attention: Treasurer

(860) 225-5111

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in the prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus. Exhibits to the filings will not be sent, however, unless those exhibits have specifically been incorporated by reference into such documents.

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Legal matters

Donald J. Riccitelli, Corporate Counsel of The Stanley Works and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York are representing The Stanley Works in connection with this offering. UBS Securities LLC is being represented by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York. Mr. Riccitelli beneficially owns and has rights to acquire less than one percent of our common stock.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements and schedule of The Stanley Works and subsidiaries as of January 3, 2009 and December 31, 2007 and for each of the three years in the period ended January 3, 2009 appearing in The Stanley Works Current Report on Form 8-K dated July 9, 2009 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon appearing therein and the effectiveness of The Stanley Works and subsidiaries internal control over financial reporting as of January 3, 2009 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in its report thereon appearing in The Stanley Works 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Both reports are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and schedule are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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Prospectus

The Stanley Works

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Depository Shares

Stock Purchase Contracts

and

Stock Purchase Units

We may offer, issue and sell, together or separately:

shares of our common stock;

shares of our preferred stock;

debt securities, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;

warrants to purchase our debt securities, shares of our common stock, shares of our preferred stock, depository shares or securities of third parties or other rights;

depository shares representing an interest in our preferred stock;

stock purchase contracts to purchase shares of our common stock; and

stock purchase units, each representing ownership of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred securities or debt obligations of third-parties, including U.S. treasury securities or any combination of the foregoing, securing the holder's obligation to purchase our common stock or other securities under the stock purchase contracts.

We will provide the specific prices and terms of these securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus at the time of offering. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

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Investing in our securities involves a number of risks. See Risk Factors on page 5 before you make your investment decision.

We may offer securities through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters or dealers, through agents or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see Plan of Distribution in this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol SWK.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 24, 2008

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, using a shelf registration process. Under this process, we may sell common stock; preferred stock; debt securities; warrants to purchase debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or securities of third parties or other rights; depositary shares; stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units. This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the terms of the securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us, together with the additional information described under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information*.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making offers to sell the securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

The information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front cover. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any other date.

When used in this prospectus, the terms *The Stanley Works*, *we*, *our* and *us* refer to The Stanley Works and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and the rules promulgated thereunder (the Exchange Act). Our SEC filings are available to the public at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may read and copy all or any portion of this information at the Public Reference Section of the SEC, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference rooms. We maintain a website at www.stanleyworks.com. The information on our web site is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement.

You can also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about The Stanley Works at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, except for any information superseded by information contained directly in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any subsequently filed document deemed incorporated by reference. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that The Stanley Works has previously filed with the SEC (other than information deemed furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including Items 2.02 and 7.01 of Form 8-K). These documents contain important information about The Stanley Works and its finances.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2007;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 29, 2008 and June 28, 2008;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 9, 2008, March 4, 2008, March 14, 2008, April 24, 2008, June 13, 2008, July 23, 2008 and September 22, 2008;

The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on March 24, 1986, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description; and

The description of the depositary preferred stock purchase rights associated with our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A, filed with the SEC on July 23, 2004, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and before the termination of the offering shall also be deemed to be incorporated herein by reference. We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including our compensation committee report and performance graph or any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K.

To obtain a copy of these filings at no cost, you may write or telephone us at the following address:

The Stanley Works

1000 Stanley Drive

New Britain, Connecticut 06053

Attention: Treasurer

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(860) 225-5111

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in the prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus. Exhibits to the filings will not be sent, however, unless those exhibits have specifically been incorporated by reference into such documents.

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**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement contain or incorporate statements that are forward-looking within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Those statements include trend analyses and other information relative to markets for our products and trends in our operations or financial results as well as other statements that can be identified by the use of forward-looking language such as may, should, believes, expects, anticipates, plans, estimates, intends, projects, goals, objectives, or other similar expressions. Our actual results, performance or achievement could be materially different from the results expressed in, or implied by, those forward-looking statements. Those statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to the risks described in this prospectus any accompanying prospectus supplement and other documents incorporated by reference. When considering those forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference.

A variety of factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from the expected results expressed in our forward-looking statements, including those set forth in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or the documents incorporated by reference, including the Risk Factors, Business and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section of our reports and other documents filed with the SEC. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from those we contemplate by the forward-looking statements include, among others, the following possibilities:

inability to maintain and improve the overall profitability of our operations;

inability to limit the impact of steel and other commodity and material price inflation through price increases and other measures;

inability to capitalize on future acquisition opportunities and fund other initiatives;

inability to invest in routine business needs;

inability to efficiently and promptly integrate recent (as well as future) acquisitions and achieve anticipated synergies;

failure to continue improvements in productivity and cost reductions in all aspects of our operations;

failure to identify and effectively execute overhead cost reduction opportunities;

inability to generate free cash flow and maintain strong credit metrics;

inability to successfully settle routine tax audits;

inability to access credit markets under satisfactory terms;

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inability to negotiate satisfactory payment terms for the purchase and sale of goods, material and products;

inability to sustain the success of our marketing and sales efforts, including our ability to recruit and retain an adequate sales force and to maintain its customer base;

inability of the sales force to adapt to any changes made in the sales organization and achieve adequate customer coverage;

inability to stimulate demand for our products;

inability to develop and introduce new products and identify and develop new markets;

loss of significant volumes of sales from our larger customers;

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inability to maintain current production rates in our manufacturing facilities, to respond to significant changes in product demand, or to fulfill demand for new and existing products;

inability to implement, manage and maintain our operating systems effectively;

inability to continue successfully managing and defending claims and litigation;

increased pricing pressures and other changes from customers and competitors and the inability to defend market share in the face of competition;

continued consolidation of customers, particularly in consumer channels;

inventory management pressures on our customers;

changes in trade, monetary, tax and fiscal policies and laws;

the final geographic distribution of future earnings and the effect of currency exchange fluctuations and impact of dollar/foreign currency exchange and interest rates on the competitiveness of products, our debt program and our cash flow;

the strength of the United States and global economies;

the impact of events that cause or may cause disruption in our distribution and sales networks, such as war, terrorist activities, political unrest, and recessionary or expansive trends in world economies;

inability to mitigate cost increases generated by, for example, continued increases in the cost of energy or significant Chinese Renminbi or other currency appreciation; and

failure to recruit and train new employees.

There can be no assurance that other factors not currently anticipated by us will not materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf. Please take into account that forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus or, in the case of any accompanying prospectus supplement or documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the date of any such document. We do not undertake any obligation to publicly correct or update any forward looking statement if we later become aware that it is not likely to be achieved. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures we make on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

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THE STANLEY WORKS

The Stanley Works was founded in 1843 by Frederick T. Stanley and incorporated in 1852. We are a diversified worldwide supplier of tools and engineered solutions for professional, industrial and construction and do-it-yourself use, and security solutions for commercial applications. Stanley® is a brand recognized around the world for quality and value.

Our principal executive office is located at 1000 Stanley Drive, New Britain, Connecticut 06053, and our telephone number is (860) 225-5111. Our website is located at www.stanleyworks.com. Information contained on our website is not a part of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. See the risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K (together with any material changes thereto contained in subsequent filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q) and those contained in our other filings with the SEC for our most recent fiscal year, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus. These risks could materially affect our business, results of operations or financial condition and cause the value of our securities to decline. You could lose all or part of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities for general corporate purposes, including the financing of our operations, the possible repayment of short-term indebtedness, and possible business acquisitions. Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term indebtedness.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

	Six Months Ended	Fiscal Year Ended December				
	June 28 2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges (a)	4.9x	5.2x	5.1x	7.5x	7.5x	3.9x

- (a) The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is calculated on a total enterprise basis. For purposes of computing these ratios, earnings represents income from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges are the sum of (i) interest expensed and capitalized, (ii) amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness, (iii) an estimate of the interest within rental expense, and (iv) preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries. Preference security dividend is the amount of pre-tax earnings that is required to pay the dividends on outstanding preference securities. The dividend requirement must be computed as the amount of the dividend divided by (1 minus the effective income tax rate applicable to continuing operations). Earnings is the amount resulting from adding and subtracting the following items. Add the following: (a) Pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustment for minority interests in consolidated subsidiaries or income or loss from equity investees, (b) fixed charges, (c) amortization of capitalized interest, (d) distributed income of equity investees, and (e) our share of pre-tax losses of equity investees for which charges arising from guarantees are included in fixed charges. From the total of the added items, subtract the following: (a) interest capitalized, (b) preference security dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries, and (c) the minority interest in pre-tax income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges. Equity investees are investments that you account for using the equity method of accounting. The ratios are based solely on historical financial information.

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DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units that we may offer and sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. However, at the time of an offering and sale, this prospectus together with the accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used in this prospectus, debt securities means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that we may issue separately, upon exercise of a debt warrant, in connection with a stock purchase contract or as part of a stock purchase unit from time to time. The debt securities may either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Senior debt securities may be issued under a Senior Indenture and subordinated debt securities may be issued under a Subordinated Indenture. This prospectus sometimes refers to the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture collectively as the Indentures. The Indentures have been filed with the SEC and are incorporated by reference in the registration statement on Form S-3 of which this prospectus forms a part. We may also issue debt securities under a separate, new indenture. If that occurs, we will describe any differences in the terms of any series or issue of debt securities in the prospectus supplement relating to that series or issue.

The following briefly summarizes the material provisions of the Indentures and the debt securities, other than pricing and related terms disclosed in the accompanying prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be. You should read the more detailed provisions of the applicable Indenture, including the defined terms, for provisions that may be important to you. You should also read the particular terms of an offering of debt securities, which will be described in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be. Copies of the Indentures may be obtained from The Stanley Works or the applicable trustee.

As used in this Description of Debt Securities, the terms The Stanley Works, we, our and us refer to The Stanley Works, a Connecticut corporation, and do not, unless otherwise specified, include our subsidiaries.

General

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured obligations. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our present and future senior indebtedness to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Subordinated Indenture.

Since our operations are partially conducted through our subsidiaries, the cash flow and the consequent ability to service our indebtedness, including the debt securities, is partially dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the distribution of those earnings or upon the payments of funds by those subsidiaries to us. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any amounts due pursuant to the debt securities or to make funds available to us, whether by dividends, loans or other

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payments. In addition, the payment of dividends and the making of loans and advances to us by our subsidiaries may be subject to contractual or statutory restrictions, are contingent upon the earnings of those subsidiaries and are subject to various business considerations. Any right we may have to receive assets of any of our subsidiaries upon their liquidation or reorganization (and the consequent right of the holders of our debt securities to participate in those assets) will be effectively subordinated to the claims of such subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors.

The Indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that we may issue and provide that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. We may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable Indenture. The Indentures also do not limit our ability to incur other debt.

Each prospectus supplement will summarize the material terms relating to the specific series of debt securities being offered. These terms may include some or all of the following:

the title of debt securities and whether they are subordinated debt securities or senior debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the price or prices at which we will sell the debt securities;

the maturity date or dates of the debt securities;

the rate or rates of interest, if any, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the method of determining such rate or rates, if any;

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;

the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of any such deferral period, including the maximum consecutive periods during which interest payment periods may be extended;

whether the amount of payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to any index, formula or other method, such as one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices, and the manner of determining the amount of such payments;

the dates on which we will pay interest on the debt securities and the regular record date for determining who is entitled to the interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

if we possess the option to do so, the periods within which and the prices at which we may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to optional redemption provisions, and the other terms and conditions of any such provisions;

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our obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities by making periodic payments to a sinking fund or through an analogous provision or at the option of holders of the debt securities, and the period or periods within which and the price or prices at which we will redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and the other terms and conditions of such obligation;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;

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the portion, or methods of determining the portion, of the principal amount of the debt securities which we must pay upon the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities in connection with an Event of Default (as described below), if other than the full principal amount;

the currency, currencies or currency unit in which we will pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities, if not United States dollars;

provisions, if any, granting special rights to holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or our covenants with respect to the applicable series of debt securities, and whether or not such Events of Default or covenants are consistent with those contained in the applicable Indenture;

the application, if any, of the terms of the Indenture relating to defeasance and covenant defeasance (which terms are described below) to the debt securities;

whether the subordination provisions summarized below or different subordination provisions will apply to the debt securities;

the terms, if any, upon which the holders may convert or exchange the debt securities into or for our common stock, preferred stock or other securities or property;

whether any of the debt securities will be issued in global form and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which global debt securities may be exchanged for certificated debt securities;

any change in the right of the trustee or the requisite holders of debt securities to declare the principal amount thereof due and payable because of an Event of Default;

the depositary for global or certificated debt securities;

any special tax implications of the debt securities;

any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or other agents with respect to the debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange and will be issued in fully-registered form without coupons.

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies, currency units or composite currencies, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any of the

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particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and certain additional tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

Subordination

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions, including the extent of subordination of payments by us of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on such subordinated debt securities.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit the issuance of additional Senior Indebtedness.

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Certain Covenants

Except as set forth below or in any indenture supplemental to the Indentures or in a board resolution of ours establishing a series of securities under the Indentures, the Indentures will not:

limit the amount of indebtedness or lease obligations that may be incurred by us and our subsidiaries; or

contain provisions which would give holders of the notes the right to require us to repurchase their notes in the event of a decline in the credit rating of our debt securities resulting from a change in control, recapitalization or similar restructuring or in the case of any other event.

Limitation on Liens

The Senior Indenture provides that if we or any Restricted Subsidiary (as described below) shall issue, assume or guarantee any evidence of indebtedness for money borrowed (*Indebtedness*) secured by a mortgage, security interest, pledge or lien (*Mortgage*) on any Principal Property (as described below), or shares of stock or Indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary, we will secure or cause such Restricted Subsidiary to secure any debt securities issued under the Senior Indenture (the *Senior Securities*) equally and ratably with such secured Indebtedness, unless the aggregate amount of all such secured Indebtedness, together with all Attributable Debt (as described below) outstanding pursuant to the first paragraph of the *Limitation on Sale and Lease-back Transactions* covenant described below, would not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Worth. The Subordinated Indenture does not contain a similar limitation on liens.

Such limitation will not apply to Indebtedness secured by (a) Mortgages on property of any corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Restricted Subsidiary, (b) Mortgages on any property existing at the date of the indenture or at the time of acquisition by us or a Restricted Subsidiary (including acquisition through merger or consolidation), (c) Mortgages securing Indebtedness of a Restricted Subsidiary to us or to another Restricted Subsidiary, (d) purchase money and construction Mortgages entered into within specified time limits, (e) mechanics liens, tax liens, liens in favor of any governmental body to secure progress, advance or other payments or the acquisition of real or personal property from any governmental body pursuant to contract or provision of statute, any other liens, charges and encumbrances incidental to construction, conduct of business or ownership of property of ours or any Restricted Subsidiary which were not incurred in connection with borrowing money, obtaining advances or credits or the acquisition of property and in the aggregate do not materially impair use of any Principal Property or which are being contested in good faith, or (f) any extension, renewal or replacement of any of the aforementioned Mortgages not in excess of the principal amount of such Indebtedness plus the fee incurred in connection with such transaction.

Limitation on Sale and Lease-back Transactions

The Senior Indenture provides that neither we nor any Restricted Subsidiary may enter into any sale and lease-back transaction involving any Principal Property unless the aggregate amount of all Attributable Debt with respect to such transactions, together with all Indebtedness outstanding pursuant to the first paragraph of the *Limitation on Liens* covenant described above, would not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Worth (as described below).

Such limitation will not apply to any sale and lease-back transaction if (a) the lease is for a period of not more than three years, (b) the purchaser's commitment is obtained within a specified period after the acquisition, construction or placing in service of the Principal Property, (c) the rent payable pursuant to such lease is to be reimbursed under a contract with the United States Government or instrumentality or agency thereof, (d) the transaction is between us and a Restricted Subsidiary or between Restricted Subsidiaries, (e) we or such Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled as described in *Limitation on Liens*, above, to mortgage such Principal Property without equally and ratably securing the Senior Securities, or (f) we or such Restricted Subsidiary, within 180 days after the effective date of the transaction, apply to the retirement of Senior Securities or other Indebtedness of ours or a Restricted Subsidiary an amount equal to (A) either (i) the lesser of the net proceeds of the sale or transfer or the book value at the date of such sale or transfer of the Principal Property leased, if the transaction is for cash, or (ii) the fair market value of the Principal Property leased, if the transaction is for other

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than cash, minus (B) the amount equal to the principal amount of Senior Securities delivered to the trustee within such 180 days for cancellation and the principal amount of Indebtedness voluntarily retired (including any premium or fee paid in connection therewith) within such 180 days.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We may consolidate or merge with or into any other corporation, and we may sell or transfer all or substantially all of our assets to another corporation, provided, among other things, that (a) the corporation formed by or resulting from any such consolidation or merger or the transferee of such assets shall be a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and shall expressly assume by supplemental indenture payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities issued under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture and the performance and observance of the Indenture and (b) we or such successor corporation shall not immediately thereafter be in default under the Indenture.

Definition of Certain Terms

Restricted Subsidiary means a Subsidiary (as described below) (i) substantially all the property of which is located, or substantially all the business of which is carried on, within the United States, and (ii) which owns a Principal Property; provided, however, that the term shall not include any Subsidiary which is solely or primarily engaged in the business of providing or obtaining financing for the sale or lease of products sold or leased by us or any Subsidiary or which is primarily engaged in the business of a finance company either on a secured or an unsecured basis.

Principal Property means all real property and tangible personal property constituting a manufacturing plant located within the United States owned by us or a Restricted Subsidiary, exclusive of (i) motor vehicles, mobile materials-handling equipment and other rolling stock, (ii) office furnishings and equipment, information and electronic data processing equipment, (iii) any property financed through obligations issued by a state or possession of the United States, or any political subdivision or instrumentality of the foregoing, on which the interest is not, in the opinion of tax counsel of recognized standing or in accordance with a ruling issued by the Internal Revenue Service, includable in gross income of the holder by reason of Section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (or any successor to such provision) as in effect at the time of the issuance of such obligations, (iv) any real property held for development or sale, or (v) any property the gross book value of which (including related land and improvements thereon and all machinery and equipment included therein without deduction of any depreciation reserves) is less than 10% of Consolidated Net Worth or which our board of directors determines is not material to the operation of our business and our Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

Consolidated Net Worth means the excess over current liabilities of all assets properly appearing on our consolidated balance sheet after deducting the minority interests of others in Subsidiaries.

A **Subsidiary** is defined to mean any corporation of which at least a majority of all outstanding stock having ordinary voting power in the election of directors of such corporation is at the time, directly or indirectly, owned by us or by one or more Subsidiaries of ours or by us and one or more Subsidiaries.

Attributable Debt in respect of any Sale and Lease-Back Transaction means, as of the time of the determination, the lesser of (i) the sale price of the Principal Property so leased multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which is the remaining portion of the base term of the lease included in such transaction and the denominator of which is the base term of such lease, and (ii) the total obligation (discounted to present value at the implicit interest factor, determined in accordance with generally accepted financial practice, included in the rental payments or, if such interest factor cannot readily be determined, at a rate of interest of 10% per annum, compounded semi-annually) of the lessee for rental payments (other than amounts required to be paid on account of property taxes as well as maintenance, repairs, insurance, water rates and other items which do not constitute payments for property rights) during the remaining portion of the base term of lease included in such transaction.

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Events of Default

The following events are defined in the Indentures as Events of Default :

default in the payment of any installment of interest on any debt securities in such series for 30 days after becoming due;

default in the payment of principal or premium, if any, of any debt securities in such series when due;

default in the performance of any other covenant for 90 days after notice;

involuntary acceleration of the maturity of our indebtedness in excess of \$10 million for money borrowed which acceleration shall not be rescinded or annulled or otherwise cured, or which indebtedness shall not be discharged, within 10 days after notice;

entry of certain court orders which would require us to make payments exceeding \$25 million and where 60 days have passed since the entry of the order without it having been satisfied or stayed;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and

any other Event of Default that may be set forth in the supplemental indenture or board resolution with respect to a particular series of debt securities.

If an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing with respect to a series of debt securities, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of such series) of such series may declare the entire principal amount of all the debt securities of such series to be due and payable.

The Indentures provide that the trustee shall, within 90 days after the occurrence of default with respect to a particular series of debt securities, give the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of such default known to it (the term default to mean the events specified above without grace periods); provided that, except in the case of default in the payment of principal or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any of the debt securities of such series, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if it in good faith determines the withholding of such notice is in the interest of the holders of the debt securities of such series.

We are required to furnish the trustee annually a statement by certain of our officers to the effect that to the best of their knowledge we are not in default in the fulfillment of any of our obligations under the Indentures or, if there has been a default in the fulfillment of any such obligation, specifying each such default. No holder of any debt securities of any particular series shall have any right to institute any judicial or other proceeding with respect to the Indentures, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy unless:

an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing and such holder shall have given the trustee prior written notice of such continuing Event of Default;

the holders of not less than 25% of the outstanding principal amount of debt securities of a particular series shall have requested the trustee for such series to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default;

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the trustee shall have been offered reasonable indemnity against its costs, expenses and liabilities in complying with such request;

the trustee shall have failed to institute proceedings 60 days after the receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity; and

no direction inconsistent with such written request shall have been given for 60 days by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of a particular series of debt securities outstanding will have the right, subject to certain limitations, to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee with respect to such series or exercising any trust or power conferred to the

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trustee, and to waive certain defaults. The Indentures provide that in case an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing, the trustee shall exercise such of its rights and powers under the Indentures, and use the same degree of care and skill in their exercise, as a prudent man would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of his own affairs. Subject to such provisions, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indentures at the request of any of the holders of debt securities of a particular series unless they shall have offered to the trustee security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request.

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may discharge or defease our obligations under each Indenture as set forth below.

We may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture which have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and which have either become due and payable or are by their terms due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by irrevocably depositing with the trustee funds or government obligations denominated in U.S. dollars or in the foreign currency in which debt securities of such series are payable in an amount sufficient to pay the entire indebtedness on debt securities of such series with respect to principal (and premium and additional amounts, if any) and interest to the date of such deposit (if debt securities of such series have become due and payable) or to the maturity thereof or the date of redemption of debt securities of such series, as the case may be.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect either (i) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the debt securities of or within any series (except for, among other things, the obligation to pay additional amounts, if any, upon the occurrence of certain events of taxation, assessment or governmental charge with respect to payments on debt securities of such series and other obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of such series, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency with respect to the debt securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust) (defeasance) or (ii) to be released from our obligations with respect to certain covenants applicable to the debt securities of or within any series of debt securities and any omission to comply with such obligations shall not constitute an Event of Default with respect to such series of debt securities (covenant defeasance), upon the deposit with the relevant Indenture trustee, in trust for such purpose, of money and/or government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient, without reinvestment, to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt securities to maturity. As a condition to defeasance or covenant defeasance, we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (i) above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable federal income tax law occurring after the date of the relevant Indenture. In addition, in the case of either defeasance or covenant defeasance, we must deliver to the trustee (i) an opinion of counsel stating that the money and government obligations or other property deposited with the trustee to be held in trust will not be subject to any case or proceeding under any Federal or State bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law, or any decree or order for relief, and (ii) an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with.

We may exercise our defeasance option with respect to such debt securities notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option.

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Modification and Waiver

Modification and amendments of the indenture may be made by us and the trustee with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected thereby; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any premium or installment of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, debt securities of any series,

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate (or modify the calculation of such rate) of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, or any premium payable upon the redemption of, debt securities of any series,

change our obligation to pay additional amounts with respect to debt securities of any series or reduce the amount of the principal of an original issue discount debt securities that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof or the amount thereof provable in bankruptcy,

change the redemption provisions of debt securities of any series or adversely affect the right of repayment at the option of any holder of debt securities of any series,

change the place of payment or the coin or currency in which the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to debt securities of any series is payable,

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity of debt securities of any series,

reduce the percentage in principal amount of an outstanding series of debt securities, the consent of whose holders is required in order to take certain actions,

reduce the requirements for quorum or voting by holders of a particular series of debt securities in Section 15.4 of the Indentures,

modify any of the provisions in the Indentures regarding the waiver of past defaults and the waiver of certain covenants by the holders of a particular series of debt securities except to increase any percentage vote required or to provide that certain other provisions of the Indentures cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each debt security of such series affected thereby,

make any change that adversely affects the right to convert or exchange any series of debt security into or for our common stock or other securities in accordance with its terms, or

modify any of the above provisions.

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of such series, waive our compliance with certain restrictive provisions of the applicable Indenture. The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of such

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series, waive any past default and its consequences under the Indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series, except a default:

in the payment of principal of (or premium, if any), any interest on or any additional amounts with respect to debt securities of such series; or

in respect of a covenant or provision of the indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each debt security of any series.

Under the Indentures, we are required to furnish the trustee annually a statement as to performance by us of certain of our obligations under the Indentures and as to any default in such performance. We are also required to deliver to the trustee, within five days after occurrence thereof, written notice of any Event of Default or any event which after notice or lapse of time or both would constitute an Event of Default.

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Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name a debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal, interest and premium on the debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of such paying agent or paying agents as we may designate for such purpose from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at our option, payment of any interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address appears in the security register.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, a paying agent designated by us and located in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York will act as paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. All paying agents initially designated by us for the debt securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for the payment of the principal, interest or premium on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, interest or premium has become due and payable will be repaid to us upon request, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Denominations, Registrations and Transfer

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, debt securities will be represented by one or more global certificates registered in the name of a nominee for The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. In such case, each holder's beneficial interest in the global securities will be shown on the records of DTC and transfers of beneficial interests will only be effected through DTC's records.

A holder of debt securities may only exchange a beneficial interest in a global security for certificated securities registered in the holder's name if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue serving as the depository for the relevant global securities or DTC ceases to maintain certain qualifications under the Exchange Act and no successor depository has been appointed for 90 days; or

We determine, in our sole discretion, that the global security shall be exchangeable.

If debt securities are issued in certificated form, they will only be issued in the minimum denomination specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement and integral multiples of such denomination. Transfers and exchanges of such debt securities will only be permitted in such minimum denomination. Transfers of debt securities in certificated form may be registered at the trustee's corporate office or at the offices of any paying agent or trustee appointed by us under the Indentures. Exchanges of debt securities for an equal aggregate principal amount of debt securities in different denominations may also be made at such locations.

Governing Law

The Indentures are and debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws (other than Section 5-1401 of the General Obligations Law of the State of New York).

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Regarding the Trustee

The Senior Indenture Trustee is The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee to JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A., and the Subordinated Indenture Trustee is HSBC Bank USA, National Association. The Trustees are permitted to engage in other transactions with us and our subsidiaries from time to time, provided that if the trustees acquire any conflicting interest they must eliminate such conflict upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, or else resign.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, preferred stock or other debt securities. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. These provisions may allow or require the number of shares of our common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of such series of debt securities to be adjusted.

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DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

The following summary description of our capital stock is based on the provisions of the Connecticut Business Corporation Act, or CBCA, our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, and our bylaws, as amended. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the CBCA, and to the terms of the restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws which are included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#). As used in this Description of Capital Stock, the terms The Stanley Works, we, our and us refer to The Stanley Works, a Connecticut corporation, and do not, unless otherwise specified, include the subsidiaries of this Connecticut corporation.

Our authorized capital stock consists of 200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$2.50 per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value. The number of authorized shares of any class may be increased or decreased by an amendment to our restated certificate of incorporation proposed by our board of directors and approved by a majority of voting shares voted on the issue at a meeting at which a quorum exists.

Common Stock

Each shareholder of record of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on every matter properly submitted to the shareholders for their vote. Holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights. After satisfaction of the dividend rights of holders of preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled ratably to any dividend declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for this purpose.

Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably our net assets available, if any, after the payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any outstanding preferred stock.

Holders of our common stock have no redemption or conversion rights, no sinking fund provisions and no preemptive right to subscribe for or purchase additional shares of any class of our capital stock.

The outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable, and any shares of common stock issued in an offering pursuant to this prospectus and any shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of common stock warrants or conversion or exchange of debt securities which are convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, or in connection with the obligations of a holder of stock purchase contracts to purchase our common stock, when issued in accordance with their terms will be fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Preferred Stock

This section describes the general terms and provisions of preferred stock that we are authorized to issue. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the shares of preferred stock offered through that prospectus supplement, as well as any general terms described in this section that will not apply to those shares of preferred stock. We will file a copy of the certificate of amendment to our certificate of incorporation that contains the terms of each new series of preferred stock with the Secretary of the State of Connecticut and with the SEC each time we issue a new series of preferred stock. Each such certificate of amendment will establish the number of shares included in a designated series and fix the designation, powers, privileges, preferences and rights of the shares of each series as well as any applicable qualifications, limitations or restrictions. You should refer to the applicable certificate of amendment as well as our certificate of incorporation before deciding to buy shares of our preferred stock as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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Our board of directors has been authorized to provide for the issuance of up to 10,000,000 shares of our preferred stock in multiple series without the approval of shareholders. With respect to each series of our preferred stock, our board of directors has the authority to fix the following terms:

the designation of the series;

the number of shares within the series;

whether dividends are cumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends are cumulative;

the rate of any dividends, any conditions upon which dividends are payable, and the dates of payment of dividends;

whether the shares are redeemable, the redemption price and the terms of redemption;

the amount payable to you for each share you own if we dissolve or liquidate;

whether the shares are convertible or exchangeable, the price or rate of conversion or exchange, and the applicable terms and conditions;

any restrictions on issuance of shares in the same series or any other series;

voting rights applicable to the series of preferred stock; and

any other rights, priorities, preferences, restrictions or limitations of such series.

Your rights with respect to your shares of preferred stock will be subordinate to the rights of our general creditors. Shares of our preferred stock that we issue in accordance with their terms will be fully paid and nonassessable, and will not be entitled to preemptive rights unless specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our ability to issue preferred stock, or rights to purchase such shares, could discourage an unsolicited acquisition proposal. For example, we could impede a business combination by issuing a series of preferred stock containing class voting rights that would enable the holders of such preferred stock to block a business combination transaction. Alternatively, we could facilitate a business combination transaction by issuing a series of preferred stock having sufficient voting rights to provide a required percentage vote of the shareholders. Additionally, under certain circumstances, our issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of the holders of our common stock. Although our board of directors is required to make any determination to issue any preferred stock based on its judgment as to the best interests of our shareholders, our board of directors could act in a manner that would discourage an acquisition attempt or other transaction that some, or a majority, of our shareholders might believe to be in their best interests or in which shareholders might receive a premium for their stock over prevailing market prices of such stock. Our board of directors does not at present intend to seek shareholder approval prior to any issuance of currently authorized stock, unless otherwise required by law or applicable stock exchange requirements.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Other Agreements

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The rights of our shareholders and related matters are governed by the CBCA, the certificate of incorporation, the bylaws and the Rights Agreement, dated January 19, 2006, which is referred to herein as the Rights Agreement. Provisions of the CBCA, the certificate of incorporation, the bylaws and the Rights Agreement, which are summarized below, may discourage or make more difficult a takeover attempt that shareholders might consider in their best interest. These provisions may also adversely affect prevailing market prices for our common stock.

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Board of Directors

The certificate of incorporation provides that the board of directors will be classified with approximately one-third elected each year. The number of directors will be fixed by the board of directors from time to time. The directors elected by the holders of common stock are divided into three classes, designated class I, class II and class III. Each class consists, as nearly as may be possible, of one-third of the total number of such directors. At each annual meeting of shareholders, successors to the class of directors whose term expires at that annual meeting will be elected for a three-year term. In addition, if the number of directors is changed, any increase or decrease will be apportioned among the classes so as to maintain the number of directors in each class as nearly equal as possible, and any additional director of any class elected to fill a vacancy resulting from an increase in such class will hold office for a term that will coincide with the remaining term of that class, but in no case will a decrease in the number of directors shorten the term of any incumbent director. Any vacancy on the board of directors may be filled by the shareholders or by the board of directors, whether such vacancy occurs as a result of an increase in the number of directors or otherwise. The certificate of incorporation also provides that directors elected by the holders of common stock may be removed only for cause by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast thereon.

Shareholder Action by Written Consent; Special Meetings

Under the CBCA our shareholders may take action by written unanimous consent of holders of all of our shares in lieu of an annual or special meeting. Otherwise, shareholders will only be able to take action at an annual or special meeting called in accordance with the bylaws.

The bylaws provide that special meetings of shareholders may only be called by:

the chairman of the board,

the president,

the secretary, or

the chairman of the board, the president or the secretary upon the written request of the holders of not less than thirty-five percent (35%) of our outstanding voting stock.

In addition, the CBCA provides that a corporation with a class of voting stock registered under the Exchange Act shall hold a special meeting of shareholders if the holders of thirty-five percent (35%) of the votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered demand such a meeting.

Advance Notice Requirements for Director Nominations and Other Proposals

Director Nominations. The bylaws contain advance notice procedures with regard to shareholder proposals related to the nomination of candidates for election as directors. These procedures provide that notice of shareholder proposals related to shareholder nominations for the election of directors must be received at our executive offices at least 90 days, but no more than 120 days before the first anniversary of the date on which the proxy statement for the preceding annual meeting was mailed; provided, however, that in the event the annual meeting is not within 30 days before or after such anniversary date, notice by the shareholder must be received not later than the close of business 10 days after the day on which notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed or public disclosure of the date of the annual meeting was made, whichever occurs first. Our bylaws require that all directors be shareholders of record.

A shareholder's notice to our corporate secretary must be in proper written form and must set forth certain information including:

the name, and record addresses of the nominating shareholder, and any other person on whose behalf the nomination is being made, and the nominee;

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the class or series and number of shares of our capital stock which are beneficially or of record owned by the nominating shareholder or such other person;

a description of all arrangements or understandings between the nominating shareholder or such other person and any nominee(s) in connection with the nomination;

any other information relating to the nominee that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other solicitations of proxies for election of directors or as otherwise required to be disclosed pursuant to the Exchange Act had the nominee been nominated by the board of directors;

a consent of the nominee to be named in the proxy statement and to serve if elected; and

a representation that the nominating shareholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to make such nomination.

Other Proposals. In addition to the procedures for nominating directors, the bylaws also contain notice procedures for other shareholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting. To be timely, we must receive shareholder proposals at least 90 days, but no more than 120 days before the first anniversary of the date on which the proxy statement for the preceding annual meeting was mailed; provided, however, that in the event the annual meeting is not within 30 days before or after such anniversary date, notice by the shareholder must be received not later than the close of business 10 days after the day on which notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed or public disclosure of the date of the annual meeting was made, whichever occurs first.

A shareholder's notice to our corporate secretary must be in proper written form and must set forth, as to each matter that shareholder proposes to bring before the meeting:

a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for conducting that business at the meeting;

the complete text of any resolutions to be presented;

the name and record address of that shareholder and any other person on whose behalf the proposal is made;

the class and series and number of shares of each class and series of our capital stock which are owned beneficially or of record by that shareholder;

a description of all arrangements or understandings between that shareholder and any such other person in connection with the proposal of that business and any material interest of that shareholder or such other person in that business; and

a representation that the shareholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to bring that business before the meeting.

Rights Agreement

On January 19, 2006, our board of directors declared a dividend distribution of one right for each share of our common stock outstanding on the close of business on March 10, 2006 and authorized the issuance of one right (as such number may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with the terms of the Rights Agreement) per share of our common stock issued between March 10, 2006 and the Distribution Date. Each

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outstanding share of common stock currently has one half of a share purchase right. Each purchase right may be exercised to purchase one two-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at an exercise price of \$220.00, subject to adjustment. The rights, which do not have voting rights, expire on March 10, 2016, and may be redeemed by us at a price of \$0.01 per right at any time prior to the earlier of the rights' expiration date or the close of business on the tenth day following the public announcement that a person has acquired beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock.

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In the event that we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction, provision shall be made so that each holder of a right (other than a holder who is a 10%-or-more shareowner) shall have the right to receive, upon exercise thereof, that number of shares of common stock of the surviving company having a market value equal to two times the exercise price of the right. Similarly, if anyone becomes the beneficial owner of more than 10% of the then outstanding shares of common stock (except pursuant to an offer for all outstanding shares of common stock which the independent directors have deemed to be fair and in our best interest), provision will be made so that each holder of a right (other than a holder who is a 10%-or-more shareowner) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise thereof, common stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or our other securities) having a market value equal to two times the exercise price of the right.

Antitakeover Legislation

We are subject to the provisions of Section 33-844 of the CBCA which prohibits a Connecticut corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested shareholder for a period of five years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder, unless the business combination or the purchase of stock by which such person becomes an interested shareholder is approved by our board of directors, and by a majority of our non-employee directors, prior to the date on which the person becomes an interested shareholder. A business combination generally includes mergers, asset sales, some types of stock issuances and other transactions with, or resulting in a disproportionate financial benefit to, the interested shareholder. Subject to exceptions, an interested shareholder is a person who owns 10% or more of our voting power, or is an affiliate or associate of The Stanley Works and owned 10% or more of our voting power within the past five years.

Under our certificate of incorporation, the affirmative vote by the holders of 80% of our outstanding voting stock is required for the approval or authorization of any business combination involving an interested shareholder. This voting requirement does not apply if:

2/3 of our disinterested directors expressly approve the proposed business combination; or

The following conditions are satisfied:

The cash and fair market value of other consideration received on a per share basis by each shareholder is no less than the highest share price (or the equivalent value) paid by the interested shareholder in acquiring our capital stock; and

A proxy statement is mailed to all shareholders of the corporation for the purpose of soliciting shareholder approval of the business combination.

This 80% vote is required even if no vote or a lesser percentage is required by any applicable laws. Additionally, the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than 80% of our outstanding shares of capital stock is required to modify this section of our certificate of incorporation.

Notwithstanding the 80% vote required by our certificate of incorporation, we are also subject to Section 33-841 and Section 33-842 of the CBCA. These provisions generally require business combinations with an interested shareholder to be approved by the board of directors and then by the affirmative vote of at least:

the holders of 80% of the voting power of the outstanding shares of our voting stock; and

the holders of 2/3 of the voting power of the outstanding shares of our voting stock, excluding the voting stock held by the interested shareholder;

unless the consideration to be received by the shareholders meets certain price and other requirements set forth in Section 33-842 of the CBCA or unless the board of directors of the corporation has by resolution determined to exempt business combinations with that interested shareholder prior to the time that such shareholder became an interested shareholder.

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We are also subject to Section 33-756(d) of the CBCA, generally requiring directors acting with respect to mergers, sales of assets and other specified transactions to consider, in determining what they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the corporation, specified interests, including those of the corporation's employees, customers, creditors and suppliers and any community in which any office or other facility of the corporation is located.

Limitation of Liability of Directors

The certificate of incorporation contains provisions permitted under the CBCA relating to the personal liability of directors. The provisions limit the personal liability to us or our shareholders of a director for monetary damages for breach of duty as a director to an amount that is not more than the compensation received by that director for serving us during the year of the violation. Our bylaws provide for the indemnification and reimbursement of, and advances of expenses to, any person that is made a party to an action by reason of the fact that he or she:

is or was our director, officer, employee or agent, or

served at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation.

Our bylaws provide for indemnification of directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Connecticut law.

Listing.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SWK.

Transfer Agent and Registrar.

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Investor Services, LLC.

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DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our warrants to acquire our securities that we may issue from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any warrant agreements and the warrants issuable thereunder. If any particular terms of the warrants described in the prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described herein, then the terms described herein will be deemed superseded by that prospectus supplement.

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or securities of third parties or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing. We may issue warrants independently or together with other securities, and they may be attached to or separate from the other securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement that we will enter into with a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, as detailed in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation, or agency or trust relationship, with you. We will file a copy of the warrant and warrant agreement with the SEC each time we issue a series of warrants, and these warrants and warrant agreements will be incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. A holder of our warrants should refer to the provisions of the applicable warrant agreement and prospectus supplement for more specific information.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of warrants will describe the terms of those warrants, including, when applicable:

the offering price;

the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of the warrants may be payable;

the number of warrants offered;

the securities underlying the warrants, including the securities of third parties or other rights, if any, to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing, purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the exercise price and the amount of securities you will receive upon exercise;

the procedure for exercise of the warrants and the circumstances, if any, that will cause the warrants to be automatically exercised;

the rights, if any, we have to redeem the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which the warrants will expire;

the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security;

the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

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U.S. federal income tax consequences;

the name of the warrant agent; and

any other material terms of the warrants.

After your warrants expire they will become void. All warrants will be issued in registered form. The prospectus supplement may provide for the adjustment of the exercise price of the warrants.

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Warrants may be exercised at the appropriate office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Before the exercise of warrants, holders will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon exercise and will not be entitled to payments made to holders of those securities.

The applicable warrant agreement may be amended or supplemented without the consent of the holders of the warrants to which it applies to effect changes that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the warrants and that do not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of warrants will not be effective unless the holders of at least a majority of the applicable warrants then outstanding approve the amendment. Every holder of an outstanding warrant at the time any amendment becomes effective, by continuing to hold the warrant, will be bound by the applicable warrant agreement as amended. The prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of warrants may provide that certain provisions of the warrants, including the securities for which they may be exercisable, the exercise price and the expiration date, may not be altered without the consent of the holder of each warrant.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do so, we may issue receipts for depositary shares that each represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will indicate that fraction. The shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a depositary agreement between us and a bank or trust company that meets certain requirements and is selected by us (the Bank Depositary). Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering.

We have summarized some common provisions of a depositary agreement and the related depositary receipts. The forms of the depositary agreement and the depositary receipts relating to any particular issue of depositary shares will be filed with the SEC each time we issue depositary shares, and you should read those documents for provisions that may be important to you. If any particular terms of the depositary agreements and the related depositary receipts described in the prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described herein, then the terms described herein will be deemed superseded by that prospectus supplement.

Dividends and Other Distributions

If we pay a cash distribution or dividend on a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will distribute such dividends to the record holders of such depositary shares. If the distributions are in property other than cash, the Bank Depositary will distribute the property to the record holders of the depositary shares. However, if the Bank Depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution of property, the Bank Depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to the record holders of the depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If we redeem a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds received by the Bank Depositary in connection with the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will equal the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share of the preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as the Bank Depositary may determine.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock represented by depositary shares are entitled to vote, the Bank Depositary will mail the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of these depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, may instruct the Bank Depositary as to how to vote the preferred stock represented by such holder's depositary shares. The Bank Depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will take all action that the Bank Depositary deems necessary in order to enable the Bank Depositary to do so. The Bank Depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock.

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Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the depositary agreement may be amended by agreement between the Bank Depositary and us. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The depositary agreement may be terminated by the Bank Depositary or us only if (1) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or (2) there has been a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Bank Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the Bank Depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the depositary agreement to be for their accounts.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Except as may be provided otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the Bank Depositary, subject to the terms of the depositary agreement, the owner of the depositary shares may demand delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by those depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the Bank Depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the depositary agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

Miscellaneous

The Bank Depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the Bank Depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

Neither the Bank Depositary nor we will be liable if we are prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations under the depositary agreement. The obligations of the Bank Depositary and us under the depositary agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of our duties thereunder, and we will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Resignation and Removal of Bank Depositary

The Bank Depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the Bank Depositary. Any such resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor Bank Depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor Bank Depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company meeting the requirements of the depositary agreement.

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DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS

AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from or sell to us, and obligating us to sell to or purchase from the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock or other securities at a future date or dates, which we refer to in this prospectus as stock purchase contracts. The price per share of the securities and the number of shares of the securities may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts, and may be subject to adjustment under anti-dilution formulas. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of units consisting of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred securities or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities, any other securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement or any combination of the foregoing, securing the holders' obligations to purchase the securities under the stock purchase contracts, which we refer to herein as stock purchase units. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations under the stock purchase contracts in a specified manner. The stock purchase contracts also may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase contracts or the stock purchase units, as the case may be, or vice versa, and those payments may be unsecured or pre-funded on some basis.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units. This description is not complete and the description in the prospectus supplement will not necessarily be complete, and reference is made to the stock purchase contracts, and, if applicable, collateral or depositary arrangements relating to the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units, which will be filed with the SEC each time we issue stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units. If any particular terms of the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units described in the prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described herein, then the terms described herein will be deemed superseded by that prospectus supplement. Material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the stock purchase units and the stock purchase contracts will also be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

to underwriters for resale to purchasers;

directly to purchasers; or

through agents or dealers to purchasers.

In addition, The Stanley Works may enter into derivative or hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. In connection with such a transaction, the third parties may sell securities covered by and pursuant to this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement. If so, the third party may use securities borrowed from us or others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out any related short positions. We may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will identify the specific plan of distribution, including any underwriters, dealers, agents or direct purchasers and their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

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LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York and Bruce H. Beatt, our general counsel. If the validity of any securities is also passed upon by counsel for the underwriters of an offering of those securities, that counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to that offering. Mr. Beatt beneficially owns and has rights to acquire less than one percent of our common stock.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedule of The Stanley Works and subsidiaries for the year ended December 29, 2007 appearing in The Stanley Works Current Report (Form 8-K) dated September 22, 2008, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon appearing in The Stanley Works Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 22, 2008 and the effectiveness of The Stanley Works and subsidiaries internal control over financial reporting as of December 29, 2007 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon appearing in The Stanley Works 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Both reports are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and schedule are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in account and auditing.

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