FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL        |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:         | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average b | ourden    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

0.5

hours per response:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* WILLIAMS NEIL     |                                                                       |                                            |                                                       |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ACUITY BRANDS INC [ AYI ] |                                                       |                                                          |       |                                                           |        |            |               |                                              |     |                                                                                   | neck all a                                            | ionship of Reporting Pe<br>all applicable)<br>Director                                                                  |                                                                 |                                                                   | rson(s) to Issuer                     |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ACUITY BRANDS, INC.            |                                                                       |                                            |                                                       |          | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/01/2006           |                                                       |                                                          |       |                                                           |        |            |               |                                              |     |                                                                                   |                                                       | Officer (give title below)                                                                                              |                                                                 |                                                                   | Other (s<br>below)                    | specify                                             |
| 1170 PEACHTREE STREET, NESUITE 2400                        |                                                                       |                                            |                                                       |          |                                                                       | If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |                                                          |       |                                                           |        |            |               |                                              |     |                                                                                   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable |                                                                                                                         |                                                                 |                                                                   |                                       |                                                     |
| (Street) ATLANTA GA 30309                                  |                                                                       |                                            |                                                       |          |                                                                       |                                                       |                                                          |       |                                                           |        |            |               |                                              | Lin | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |                                                       |                                                                                                                         |                                                                 |                                                                   |                                       |                                                     |
| (City)                                                     | (Si                                                                   | tate) (                                    | (Zip)                                                 |          |                                                                       |                                                       |                                                          |       |                                                           |        |            |               |                                              |     |                                                                                   |                                                       |                                                                                                                         |                                                                 |                                                                   |                                       |                                                     |
|                                                            |                                                                       | Tab                                        | le I - Non-                                           | Deriva   | tive                                                                  | Sec                                                   | uritie                                                   | es Ac | quire                                                     | d, D   | isp        | osed (        | of, or                                       | Ber | neficia                                                                           | lly Ow                                                | ned                                                                                                                     |                                                                 |                                                                   |                                       |                                                     |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transac Date (Month/Da |                                                                       |                                            |                                                       |          |                                                                       | ur) E                                                 | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Yea |       | Co                                                        |        |            |               | urities Acquired (A<br>eed Of (D) (Instr. 3, |     |                                                                                   | d Sec<br>Ben<br>Owr                                   | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported                                               |                                                                 | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) |                                       | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership |
|                                                            |                                                                       |                                            |                                                       |          |                                                                       |                                                       |                                                          |       | Co                                                        | de V A |            | Amount        | ount (A) or                                  |     | Price                                                                             | Transa                                                |                                                                                                                         | ction(s)<br>3 and 4)                                            |                                                                   |                                       | (Instr. 4)                                          |
|                                                            |                                                                       | Т                                          | able II - De                                          | erivativ |                                                                       |                                                       |                                                          |       |                                                           |        |            |               |                                              |     |                                                                                   | / Owne                                                | ed                                                                                                                      |                                                                 |                                                                   |                                       |                                                     |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)        | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Da<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/\) | ate, Tr  | Transaction<br>Code (Instr.                                           |                                                       |                                                          |       | 6. Date Exercisabl<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |        |            | Amount of     |                                              |     | 8. Price<br>Derivati<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5                                     | ve /                                                  | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction<br>(Instr. 4) | Ownershi<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4 | Ownership Form:                                                   | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |                                                     |
|                                                            |                                                                       |                                            |                                                       | Cod      | ode                                                                   | v                                                     | (A)                                                      | (D)   | Date<br>Exercis                                           | able   | Exp<br>Dat | oiration<br>e | Title                                        |     | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                                            |                                                       |                                                                                                                         |                                                                 |                                                                   |                                       |                                                     |
| Stock<br>Units <sup>(1)</sup>                              | (2)                                                                   | 02/01/2006                                 |                                                       |          | A                                                                     |                                                       | 230                                                      |       | (3)                                                       |        |            | (3)           | Comn                                         |     | 230                                                                               | \$38.1                                                |                                                                                                                         | 15,121                                                          |                                                                   | D                                     |                                                     |

## Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Stock Units are accrued under the Issuer's Nonemployee Directors' Deferred Stock Unit Plan and are payable in cash upon retirement in either lump sum or five annual installments. Accruals include required and elective deferral of director fees and reinvestment of dividend equivalents. During the Reporting Period, dividends earned and fees paid to the Reporting Person resulted in an increase in the number of units held.
- 2. 1-for-1
- 3. Stock Units issued pursuant to the Plan are payable in cash upon retirement in either a lump sum or five annual installments.

By: Jill A. Gilmer, under
Power of Attorney For: Neil 02/02/2006

Williams

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

 $Reminder: \ Report \ on \ a \ separate \ line \ for \ each \ class \ of \ securities \ beneficially \ owned \ directly \ or \ indirectly.$ 

- $^{\star}$  If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.