

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) September 2, 2004

**ACUITY BRANDS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**001-16583**  
(Commission File Number)

**58-2632672**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**1170 Peachtree St., N.E., Suite 2400, Atlanta, GA**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**30309**  
(Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 404-853-1400**

**Not Applicable**  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers**

On September 1, 2004, Acuity Brands, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that effective September 1, 2004, Vernon J. Nagel became its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, succeeding James S. Balloun, who retired as part of a previously announced succession plan. Additionally, the Company announced that Karen J. Holcom, Vice President and Controller, will serve as Interim Chief Financial Officer.

As previously announced, effective January 20, 2004, the Company entered into a Letter Agreement with Mr. Nagel which set forth the terms of his employment with the Company. The Letter Agreement stipulates that effective September 1, 2004, Mr. Nagel will serve as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. The Agreement describes the services, consideration, and other material terms surrounding Mr. Nagel's employment. This Agreement has been filed as Exhibit 10(iii)A(1) to the Company's Form 10-Q as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 6, 2004 and is incorporated into this Form 8-K by reference.

Mr. Nagel, 46 years old, joined the Company in December 2001 as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. In January 2004, he was elected Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer and appointed to the Board of Directors. Mr. Nagel was a principal Jepson Associates, Inc., a private investment company, from 1999 until joining the Company. He was Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer of Kulhman Corporation, a diversified industrial manufacturer, from 1993 to 1999. Mr. Nagel is a Certified Public Accountant (inactive).

In addition to serving as Interim Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Holcom, 35 years old, is Vice President and Controller of Acuity Brands, Inc. Prior to this role, Ms. Holcom served as Vice President, Financial Services, responsible for investor relations, internal audit, and other financial analysis. Prior to Acuity Brands, she served in various positions at National Service Industries, Inc. from 1998 until 2001, including roles in accounting, reporting, and financial planning. Ms. Holcom is a Certified Public Accountant.

A copy of the press release referenced above is filed as Exhibit 9.01(c)2 to this Form 8-K and is incorporated into this Form 8-K by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Letter Agreement between Acuity Brands, Inc. and Vernon J. Nagel (Reference is made to Exhibit 10(iii)A(1) to the Company's Form 10-Q as filed with the Commission on July 6, 2004.)
99.2	Press Release dated September 1, 2004 (Filed with the Commission as part of this Form 8-K.)

**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the Undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: September 2, 2004

ACUITY BRANDS, INC.

By: /s/ Vernon J. Nagel

Vernon J. Nagel  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



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**ACUITY BRANDS APPOINTS  
CEO AND INTERIM CFO**

**ATLANTA, September 1, 2004** – Acuity Brands, Inc. (NYSE: AYI) announced that effective today Vernon J. Nagel became its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, succeeding James S. Balloun, who retired as part of a previously announced succession plan. Mr. Nagel joined Acuity Brands in December 2001 as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. In January 2004, he was elected Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer and appointed to the Board of Directors.

“I am excited by the opportunity to provide continued direction to the sound strategy put in place by Jim Balloun,” said Nagel. “My focus going forward will be to build on that strong foundation and to accelerate our execution on key initiatives for the achievement of our long-term financial and operational goals. Our mission is to make Acuity Brands a great company for our customers, employees, and shareholders.”

The Company also announced the continuation of its search for a chief financial officer to succeed Mr. Nagel. Nagel said, “We are seeing a number of qualified candidates and are giving careful and selective consideration to our choice of a

new chief financial officer to join the Acuity Brands leadership team. In that regard, I am pleased to announce that, while the search process continues, Karen J. Holcom, Vice President and Controller, will also serve as Interim Chief Financial Officer. Karen previously served as Vice President, Financial Services and is well qualified to fill the interim role.”

Acuity Brands, Inc., with fiscal year 2003 net sales of over \$2.0 billion, is comprised of Acuity Brands Lighting and Acuity Specialty Products. Acuity Brands Lighting is a world leader in lighting fixtures and includes brands such as Lithonia Lighting<sup>®</sup>, Holophane<sup>®</sup>, Peerless<sup>®</sup>, Hydrel<sup>®</sup>, American Electric Lighting<sup>®</sup>, and Gotham<sup>®</sup>. Acuity Specialty Products is a leading provider of specialty chemicals and includes brands such as Zep<sup>®</sup>, Enforcer<sup>®</sup>, and Selig Industries<sup>™</sup>. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Acuity Brands employs approximately 11,000 people and has operations throughout North America and in Europe and Asia.