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DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL INC /DE/
Form 8-K
January 28, 2004

FORM 8-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report January 27, 2004
(Date of earliest event reported)

DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL INC
(Exact name of Company as specified in charter)

Delaware	0-16211	39-1434669
(State of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

221 West Philadelphia Street, York, Pennsylvania	17405
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

(717) 845-7511
(Company's telephone number including area code)

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

- (a) Financial Statements - Not applicable.
- (b) Exhibits:

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99.1 The Dentsply International Inc. fourth quarter 2003 sales and earnings release issued January 27, 2004 as referenced in Item 12.

Item 12. - Disclosure of Results of Operations and Financial Condition

The following information is furnished pursuant to Item 12, "Disclosure of Results of Operations and Financial Condition."

On January 27, 2004, the Company issued a press release disclosing its fourth quarter 2003 sales and earnings. This earnings release references net sales excluding precious metal content. Due to the fluctuations of precious metal prices and because the precious metal content of the Company's sales is largely a pass-through to customers and has minimal effect on earnings, the Company reports sales both with and without precious metals to show the Company's performance independent of precious metal price volatility and to enhance comparability of performance between periods. A copy of the Company's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit (99.1) and is hereby incorporated by reference.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL INC
(Company)

/s/Bret W. Wise
Bret W. Wise
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 28, 2004