

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD
 Form 4
 January 04, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
TASCO FRANK J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
**AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD
 [AXS]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2004

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

C/O AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED, 106 PITTS BAY ROAD

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				(A) or (D)	Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction of Derivative	5. Number of Derivative	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities
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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)				
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock	(1)	12/31/2004	A		640		(2)	(2)	Common Shares	640
Phantom Stock	(3)	01/03/2005	A		728		(2)	(2)	Common Shares	728
Stock Option for Common Shares	\$ 27.45	01/03/2005	A		8,000		01/03/2006(4)	01/03/2015	Common Shares	8,000
Phantom Stock	(6)	01/03/2005	A		2,550		(2)	(2)	Common Shares	2,550

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
TASCO FRANK J C/O AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED 106 PITTS BAY ROAD PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08	X			

Signatures

John R. Charman,
Attorney-in-Fact

01/04/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) Phantom stock represents common shares issued in lieu of directors' fees that have been deferred using the closing sale price on December 31, 2004 of \$27.35 per share.
- (2) Phantom stock is generally distributed when service as a director ceases.
- (3) Phantom stock represents restricted shares issued in lieu of directors' fees that have been deferred using the closing sale price on January 3, 2005 of \$27.45 per share.
- (4) Option vests in three equal installments on the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant.

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- (5) Option issued as directors' fees.
- (6) Phantom stock represents common shares issued in lieu of directors' fees that have been deferred using the closing sale price on January 3, 2005 of \$27.45 per share.

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

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