AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD

Form 4

January 04, 2005

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

OMB Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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(b).

(Last)

(City)

(Instr. 3)

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

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD

[AXS]

(Check all applicable)

OMB APPROVAL

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

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

12/31/2004

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

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

(State)

(First)

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Middle)

(Zip)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08

1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

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

6. Ownership Form: Direct (I) (Instr. 4)

7. Nature of Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) 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 Conversion

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction of Derivative Expiration Date

5. Number

6. Date Exercisable and

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 (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	of	(Month/Day/Year)		4)
				Code V	(A)	(D) Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock	<u>(1)</u>	12/31/2004		A	640	(2)	(2)	Common Shares	640
Phantom Stock	<u>(3)</u>	01/03/2005		A	728	<u>(2)</u>	(2)	Common Shares	728
Stock Option for Common Shares	\$ 27.45	01/03/2005		A	8,000	01/03/2006 <u>⁽⁴⁾</u>	01/03/2015	Common Shares	8,000
Phantom Stock	<u>(6)</u>	01/03/2005		A	2,550	(2)	(2)	Common Shares	2,550

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
• 6	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
A COO ED ANIZ I							

TASCO FRANK J C/O AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED 106 PITTS BAY ROAD PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08



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.

Reporting Owners 2

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- (5) Option issued as directors' fees.
- 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. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.