



WELLMAN, INC.



**Contact: Dennis Sabourin**  
**Investor Relations Officer**  
**(732) 212-3321**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WELLMAN, INC. ANNOUNCES SECOND POLYESTER STAPLE FIBER  
PRICE INCREASE**

April 19, 2004, Charlotte, NC - Wellman, Inc (NYSE: WLM) today announced, that effective with May 15, 2004 shipments, it will increase the price of its polyester staple fiber products for apparel, home furnishings, nonwovens, industrial, and fiberfill markets by 10-12%. This increase is in addition to the 8-10% that became effective with shipments on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Joe Tucker, Vice President, Fibers and Recycled Products Group, cited the continued escalation of petroleum and recycled based feedstock prices, resulting from global tightness in both the paraxylene and ethylene glycol markets, as the basis for this second price increase. "These raw material costs, which have been in an upward trend since early 2003, have increased even more dramatically in 2004, necessitating this additional price increase. We fully appreciate the difficulty that this increase will place on an already challenged textile industry. However, Wellman can no longer continue to absorb the full burden of these cost increases." As always, Wellman remains committed to the production of high quality polyester fibers and appreciates the continued support of its customers.

Wellman, Inc. manufactures and markets high-quality polyester products; including PermaClear® and EcoClear® brand PET (polyethylene terephthalate) packaging resins, Fortrel® brand polyester fibers and Wellamid® engineering resins. One of the world's largest PET plastic recyclers, Wellman utilizes a significant amount of recycled raw materials in its manufacturing operations.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements contained in this release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In addition, words such as "believes," "expects," "anticipates," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are made as of the date hereof based upon current expectations and we undertake no obligation to update the information contained herein. These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to: demand and competition for polyester fiber and PET resins; the financial condition of our customers; availability and cost of raw materials; availability and cost of petrochemical feedstock necessary for the production process; availability of financing, changes in financial markets, interest rates, credit ratings, and foreign currency exchange rates; U.S., European, Far Eastern and global economic conditions; prices and volumes of imports; work stoppages; levels of production capacity and profitable operation of assets; changes in laws and regulations; prices of competing products; natural disasters; acts of terrorism; maintaining the operations of our existing production facilities; and the impact of a governmental investigation of pricing practices in the polyester staple fiber industry. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed herein. Results of operations in any past period should not be considered indicative of results to be expected in future periods. Fluctuations in operating results may result in fluctuations in the price of our common stock. For a more complete description of the prominent risks and uncertainties inherent in our business, see our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

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