
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

**Report of Foreign Private Issuer Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

March 9, 2005

1-15240
(Commission File Number)

JAMES HARDIE INDUSTRIES N.V.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

4th Level, Atrium, unit 04-07
Strawinskylaan 3077
1077 ZX Amsterdam, The Netherlands
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover
Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted
by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): Not Applicable

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted
by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): Not Applicable

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the
registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule
12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in
connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): Not Applicable

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Safe Harbor Statement

The exhibit attached to this form 6-K contains forward-looking statements. We may from time to time make forward-looking statements in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Forms 20-F and 6-K, in our annual reports to shareholders, in offering circulars and prospectuses, in media releases and other written materials and in oral statements made by our officers, directors or employees to analysts, institutional investors, representatives of the media and others. Examples of such forward-looking statements include:

- projections of our operating results or financial condition;
- statements of our plans, objectives or goals, including those relating to competition, acquisitions, dispositions and our products;
- statements about our future economic performance or that of the United States, Australia or other countries in which we operate; and
- statements about product or environmental liabilities.

Words such as "believe," "anticipate," "plan," "expect," "intend," "target," "estimate," "project," "predict," "forecast," "guideline," "should," "aim" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements.

Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. We caution you that a number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from the plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. These factors include but are not limited to: all matters relating to or arising out of the prior manufacture of asbestos by ABN 60 and certain former subsidiaries; competition and product pricing in the markets in which we operate; general economic and market conditions; compliance with and possible changes in environmental and health and safety laws; the successful transition of new senior management; the success of our research and development efforts; the supply and cost of raw materials; our reliance on a small number of product distributors; the consequences of product failures or defects; exposure to environmental, asbestos or other legal proceedings; risks of conducting business internationally; compliance with and changes in tax laws and treatments; and foreign exchange risks. We caution you that the foregoing list of factors is not exclusive and that other risks and uncertainties may cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made.

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Government Review of Legal Costs-a Positive First Step – Filed with the Australian Stock Exchange on March 8, 2005.

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SIGNATURES

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.

James Hardie Industries N.V.

Date: March 9, 2005

By: /s/ W. (Pim) Vlot
W. (Pim) Vlot
Secretary

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99.1	Government Review of Legal Costs-a Positive First Step – Filed with the Australian Stock Exchange on March 8, 2005.

8 March 2005

company statement

For media enquiries please contact James Rickards on
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investor/analyst enquiries please contact Steve Ashe on
Tel: 61 2 8274 5246 or Mob: 0408 164 011

**Government Review of Legal Costs –
a Positive First Step**

James Hardie Industries NV (JHINV) has acknowledged the NSW Government's recommendations as a positive first step towards establishing a more efficient system, following its Review of Legal, Administrative and Other Costs in Dust Diseases Compensation Claims (the "Review").

The reduction of legal, administrative and other costs is an important factor in the future affordability and sustainability of James Hardie's proposal for the long-term funding of asbestos related personal injury claims. This principle was agreed to by all parties to the Heads of Agreement entered into on 21 December 2004 between JHINV and the NSW Government, the ACTU and asbestos victims groups.

The key NSW Government recommendations that will assist with cost reduction are:

- the early provision of as much information as possible by claimants in a prescribed form prior to actively litigating the claim in court;
- a formal process of settlement offers and mediation prior to active litigation in court;
- streamlining of Dust Diseases Tribunal procedures for matters that are not resolved by settlement offers and do proceed to a court hearing; and
- cost penalties if litigation proceeds and the result is not materially different from the settlement offers.

However, some key aspects of the proposed cost reduction are to be the subject of further development, including:

- the determination of the apportionment of liability between all liable parties;
- the settlement of claims through a single claims manager representing the liable parties; and
- new legislation to give effect to the recommendations.

Disputes and delays due to multiple defendants are a major contributor to cost. The issues arising in multiple defendant cases, while often complex, are to be the subject of conferences between interested parties (defendants and insurers) over the coming weeks.

While the Review is concerned solely with NSW procedures and legislation, the NSW Government has previously indicated its willingness to promote the recommendations of the Review to other states. The adoption of these recommendations by other States and Territories is a critical issue.

"The Government's proposal is a positive step towards a more efficient alternative to costly litigation as a means of resolving the majority of claims without diminishing claimants' rights," said Russell Chenu, Chief Financial Officer, James Hardie Industries.

"The waste involved with the current system where legal costs are 36% of the payments projected to be received by claimants from the Medical Research and Compensation Foundation¹ is unacceptable and requires dramatic reform."

Mr Chenu said it was essential the proposed new procedures be covered by legislation to ensure they operate effectively for all parties and are sustainable in the long-term. He welcomed the NSW Government's commitment to introduce this legislation and to collect accurate cost data to provide the basis of a further annual review. James Hardie believes the suggested review should be undertaken periodically to ensure the efficacy and sustainability of the revised system.

Finalisation of the Principal Agreement, contemplated by the Heads of Agreement, which is currently being progressed between James Hardie and the NSW Government, is contingent on the final outcome of the Review – including those areas requiring further development.

End.

Investor and Analyst Enquiries:

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¹ The legal costs are the plaintiff and defendant costs borne by the MRCF across all claims. The estimated projected future payments are net of insurance recoveries and legal costs. If the insurance recoveries are added back, the percentage is 31%.

Disclaimer

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