

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO INC  
 Form 4  
 October 20, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
 ECCLESTON THOMAS

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO INC [MSM]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 C/O MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC., 75 MAXESS ROAD  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 10/16/2008

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 V.P. Facilities & Asst. Secy.

MELVILLE, NY 11747

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

(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 Following 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)  | Price   |  |                                   |   |
|   |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |                                   |   |
| Class A Common Stock, \$0.001 par value | 10/16/2008                           |  | A                              | 1,208<br>(1)  | A   | \$ 0   | 5,548                             | D |

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

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Options (right to buy) <sup>(2)</sup>      | \$ 38.07   | 10/16/2008                           |  | A                              | 5,000   | <sup>(3)</sup> 10/16/2015                                | Class A Common Stock, \$0.001 par value                       | 5,000   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                                     |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                             | Other |
| ECCLESTON THOMAS<br>C/O MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC.<br>75 MAXESS ROAD<br>MELVILLE, NY 11747 |               |           | V.P.<br>Facilities &<br>Asst. Secy. |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Thomas  
Eccleston

10/20/2008

                      
\*\*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).

These shares were granted under the Issuer's 2005 Omnibus Equity Plan, and are subject to restrictions on transfer that terminate as

(1) follows: one-half of such shares may be sold on or after October 16, 2011, an additional one-quarter may be sold on or after October 16, 2012 and an additional one-quarter may be sold on or after October 16, 2013.

(2) Represents options to purchase the Issuer's Class A Common Stock, \$0.001 par value ("Common Stock").

An option to purchase 5,000 shares of the Issuer's Common Stock was issued to the Reporting Person under the Issuer's 2005 Omnibus

(3) Equity Plan. 1,250 shares of Common Stock become exercisable on each of October 16, 2009, October 16, 2010, October 16, 2011 and October 16, 2012.

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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