

WESCO DISTRIBUTION INC

Form S-3

October 22, 2004

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 22, 2004

Registration No. 333-

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

Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

WESCO International, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

25-1723342

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

WESCO Distribution, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

25-1723345

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**225 West Station Square Drive
Suite 700
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
(412) 454-2200**

*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)*

**Stephen A. Van Oss
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
WESCO International, Inc.
225 West Station Square Drive
Suite 700
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
(412) 454-2200**

*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service)*

Copy to:

Michael C. McLean

**Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
(412) 355-6500**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

Edgar Filing: WESCO DISTRIBUTION INC - Form S-3

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434 under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)(2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1)(2)(3)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Debt Securities(4)(12)				
Common Stock, \$.01 Par Value(5)(12)				
Preferred Stock, \$.01 Par Value(6)(12)				
Warrants(7)(12)				
Depository Shares(8)(12)				
Purchase Contracts(9)				
Purchase Units(10)(12)				
Guarantees of Debt Securities(11)				
Total	\$400,000,000	100%	\$400,000,000	\$50,680

(footnotes on following page)

The Registrants hereby amend this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrants shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a) may determine.

Table of Contents

(footnotes from previous page)

- (1) In U.S. dollars or the equivalent thereof in any other currency unit or units, or composite currency or currencies.
 - (2) Pursuant to General Instruction II.D to Form S-3, the amount to be registered, proposed maximum aggregate offering price per security and proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been omitted for each class of securities that is registered hereby.
 - (3) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per security will be determined from time to time by WESCO International, Inc. in connection with the issuance of the securities registered hereunder.
 - (4) An indeterminate number of debt securities of WESCO International, Inc. or WESCO Distribution, Inc. are covered by this registration statement. Debt securities may also be issued upon exercise of warrants to purchase debt securities that are registered hereby.
 - (5) An indeterminate number of shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, of WESCO International, Inc. are covered by this registration statement. Common stock may also be issued upon exercise of warrants to purchase common stock that are registered hereby.
 - (6) An indeterminate number of shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, of WESCO International, Inc. are covered by this registration statement. Preferred stock may also be issued upon exercise of warrants to purchase preferred stock that are registered hereby.
 - (7) An indeterminate number of warrants, representing rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities of WESCO International, Inc. that are registered hereby are covered by this registration statement.
 - (8) An indeterminate number of depositary shares as may be issued if WESCO International, Inc. elects to offer fractional interests in the preferred stock or debt securities of WESCO International, Inc. that are registered hereby are covered by this registration statement.
 - (9) An indeterminate amount and number of purchase contracts of WESCO International, Inc., representing obligations to purchase from WESCO International, Inc., or to sell to WESCO International, Inc., common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares or debt securities of WESCO International, Inc., or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities), an index or indices thereof or any combination thereof, are covered by this registration statement.
 - (10) An indeterminate amount and number of purchase units of WESCO International, Inc., consisting of purchase contracts together with common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares or debt securities of WESCO International, Inc., or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities), securing the holders' obligations to purchase the securities under the purchase contracts, are covered by this registration statement.
 - (11) No separate consideration will be received for the guarantees. Pursuant to Rule 457(n) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, there is no filing fee with respect to the guarantees.
 - (12) An indeterminate number of securities of WESCO International, Inc. registered hereby as may be issued in exchange for, or upon conversion or exercise of, as the case may be, the preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares or debt securities issued by WESCO International, Inc. registered hereunder, and such indeterminate amount of securities of WESCO International, Inc. registered hereby as may be issued upon settlement of the purchase contracts or purchase units registered hereunder, are covered by this registration statement. No separate consideration will be received for any securities registered hereunder that are issued in exchange for, or upon conversion of, as the case may be, the preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares or debt securities of WESCO International, Inc. or upon settlement of the purchase contracts or purchase units registered hereunder.
-

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 22, 2004

PROSPECTUS

\$400,000,000

WESCO International, Inc.

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

Depositary Shares

Purchase Contracts

Purchase Units

Guarantees of Debt Securities of WESCO Distribution, Inc.

WESCO Distribution, Inc.

Debt Securities

Guarantees of Debt Securities of WESCO International, Inc.

WESCO International, Inc. from time to time may offer to sell, in one or more series, debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares, purchase contracts or purchase units, or any combination of these securities. WESCO International's debt securities may be guaranteed by WESCO Distribution, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of WESCO International. One or more selling stockholders of WESCO International may sell WESCO International's common stock in one or more offerings, which would reduce the aggregate dollar amount of securities that we may offer under this prospectus. In addition, WESCO Distribution from time to time may offer to sell, in one or more series, debt securities that will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by WESCO International. The total amount of securities offered by this prospectus will have an initial aggregate offering price of up to \$400,000,000, or the equivalent amount in other currencies, currency units or composite currencies, although WESCO International and WESCO Distribution may increase this amount in the future.

The common stock of WESCO International is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trades under the ticker symbol WCC.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement that describes those securities.

We urge you to carefully read Risk Factors beginning on page 3 and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in any securities offered by this prospectus.

Edgar Filing: WESCO DISTRIBUTION INC - Form S-3

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY OTHER REGULATORY BODY HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2004.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	5
<u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	7
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL SECURITIES</u>	18
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	21
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	22
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS</u>	24
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE UNITS</u>	25
<u>SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</u>	25
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	26
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	27
<u>EXPERTS</u>	28
<u>Exhibit 4.10</u>	
<u>Exhibit 4.12</u>	
<u>Exhibit 5.1</u>	
<u>Exhibit 12.1</u>	
<u>Exhibit 23.1</u>	

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Available Information

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 (together with all amendments, exhibits, schedules and supplements thereto, the registration statement) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). This prospectus, which forms part of that registration statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in that registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract, agreement or other document are not necessarily complete. For a more complete understanding and description of each contract, agreement or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, we urge you to read the documents contained in those exhibits.

WESCO International files reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. These reports, proxy statements and other information that WESCO International files with the SEC can be read and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 to obtain further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including us. The SEC's Internet address is <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, WESCO International's common stock, \$.01 par value (Common Stock), is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol WCC, and its reports and other information can be inspected at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Our Internet address is <http://www.wesco.com>. The information on our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus.

Incorporation by Reference

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information that we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. Any information we incorporate in this manner is considered part of this prospectus except to the extent updated and superseded by information contained in this prospectus. Some information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and until we sell all of the securities covered by this prospectus will automatically update and supersede the information contained in

this prospectus.

Table of Contents

We incorporate by reference the following documents that WESCO International has filed with the SEC and any filings that we will make with the SEC in the future under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) until we sell all of the securities covered by this prospectus, including between the date of this prospectus and the date on which the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part is declared effective by the SEC, except as noted below:

Our SEC Filings (File No. 001-14989)	Period for or Date of Filing
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Year Ended December 31, 2003
Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q	Quarters Ended March 31 and June 30, 2004
Current Report on Form 8-K	July 15, 2004
Form 8-A	May 4, 1999

Pursuant to General Instruction B of Form 8-K, any information submitted under Item 2.02, Results of Operations and Financial Condition, or Item 7.01, Regulation FD Disclosure, of Form 8-K is not deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and we are not subject to the liabilities of Section 18 with respect to information submitted under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K. We are not incorporating by reference any information submitted under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act or into this prospectus.

Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to in this prospectus do not purport to be complete, and where reference is made to the particular provisions of that contract or other document, those references are qualified in all respects by reference to all of the provisions contained in that contract or other document. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference, or deemed to be incorporated by reference, into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes that statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and a copy of any or all other contracts or documents which are referred to in this prospectus. Requests should be directed to: WESCO International, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 225 West Station Square Drive, Suite 700, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219, telephone number: (412) 454-2200. You also may review a copy of the registration statement and its exhibits at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC's Internet site.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

*This summary is a brief discussion of material information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus as further described above under **Where You Can Find More Information**. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in any securities being offered by this prospectus. We urge you to carefully read this entire prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus and the prospectus supplement relating to the securities that you propose to buy, especially any description of investment risks that we may include in the prospectus supplement. Unless the context otherwise requires, references to **WESCO International**, the **Company**, **we**, **our** and **us** and similar terms mean **WESCO International, Inc.** and its subsidiaries (including **WESCO Distribution, Inc.**) and predecessors, except with respect to references to the guarantee of **WESCO International**, where such references mean **WESCO International** excluding its subsidiaries. References to **WESCO Distribution** mean **WESCO Distribution, Inc.**, excluding its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires.*

WESCO International, Inc.

With sales of approximately \$3.3 billion in 2003, we are a leading North American provider of electrical construction products and electrical and industrial maintenance, repair and operating supplies, commonly referred to as **MRO**. We are the second largest distributor in the estimated \$74 billion U.S. electrical distribution industry, and the largest provider of integrated supply services. Our integrated supply solutions and outsourcing services are designed to fulfill a customer's industrial MRO procurement needs through a highly automated, proprietary electronic procurement and inventory replenishment system. This system allows our customers to consolidate suppliers and reduce their procurement and operating costs. We have approximately 350 branches and five distribution centers located in 48 states, nine Canadian provinces, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam, the United Kingdom, Nigeria and Singapore. We serve over 100,000 customers worldwide, offering over 1,000,000 products from over 24,000 suppliers. Our diverse customer base includes a wide variety of industrial companies; contractors for industrial, commercial and residential projects; utility companies; and commercial, institutional and governmental customers. Our leading market positions, experienced workforce, extensive geographic reach, broad product and service offerings and acquisition program have enabled us to compete effectively against the companies in our industry.

We are a Delaware corporation with our principal executive offices located at 225 West Station Square Drive, Suite 700, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219, telephone number (412) 454-2200. Our Internet website is www.wesco.com. Information contained on our website is not part of, and should not be construed as being incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.

WESCO Distribution, Inc.

WESCO Distribution is a wholly owned operating subsidiary of WESCO International and, together with its subsidiaries, conducts primarily all of WESCO International's consolidated operations. Any debt securities issued by WESCO Distribution under this prospectus will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by WESCO International.

WESCO Distribution is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices located at 225 West Station Square Drive, Suite 700, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219, telephone number (412) 454-2200. Additional information about WESCO Distribution and its operations can be found at www.wescodist.com. Information contained on that website is not part of, and should not be construed as being incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

About This Prospectus

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we or WESCO Distribution may offer from time to time up to

Table of Contents

an aggregate of \$400,000,000 of any of the securities described in this prospectus. In addition, under this shelf process, one or more selling stockholders may sell our common stock in one or more offerings from time to time, which would reduce the aggregate dollar amount of securities that we may offer. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we or any such selling stockholders may offer. Each time we or any such selling stockholders offer securities under this prospectus, we will provide you with a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

We may use this prospectus to offer any of the following of our securities from time to time:

debt securities, either directly or represented by depositary shares, which may be senior or subordinated and which may be guaranteed by WESCO Distribution;

common stock, par value \$.01 per share;

preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, either directly or represented by depositary shares;

warrants for the purchase of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities;

purchase contracts for the purchase by us, or sale to us, of our common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares or debt securities, or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities), an index or indices of any of those securities or any combination of those securities; or

purchase units consisting of purchase contracts together with common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares or debt securities, or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities) securing the holders' obligations to purchase the securities under the purchase contracts, or any of these securities in any combination.

In addition, WESCO Distribution may use this prospectus to offer its debt securities which will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by WESCO International.

When we use the term "securities" in this prospectus, we mean any of the securities that we may offer under this prospectus, unless we say otherwise. This prospectus describes the general terms that may apply to the securities. The specific terms of any particular securities that we may offer will be described in a separate supplement to this prospectus. You also should read the documents we have referred to you in "Where You Can Find More Information" for additional information about our company, including our financial statements.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. In addition to the other information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should carefully consider the following risk factors and the information under Forward-Looking Statements, which appear elsewhere in this prospectus, together with any added, updated or changed information included in any prospectus supplement and in our reports filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, before deciding whether to invest in our securities.

Our substantial amount of debt requires significant debt service obligations that could adversely affect our ability to fulfill our obligations and could limit our growth and impose restrictions on our business.

We are and will continue to be for the foreseeable future significantly leveraged. As of June 30, 2004, we had \$435.6 million of consolidated indebtedness and stockholders' equity of \$201.4 million. We and our subsidiaries may incur additional indebtedness in the future, subject to certain limitations contained in the instruments governing our indebtedness. Accordingly, we will have significant debt service obligations. These amounts exclude our accounts receivable securitization program, through which we sell accounts receivable to a third party conduit and remove these receivables from our consolidated balance sheet.

Our debt service obligations have important consequences, including but not limited to the following:

a substantial portion of cash flow from our operations will be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on our indebtedness, thereby reducing the funds available for operations, future business opportunities and acquisitions and other purposes and increasing our vulnerability to adverse general economic and industry conditions;

our ability to obtain additional financing in the future may be limited;

as a result of our interest rate swap agreements, approximately \$100.0 million of our fixed rate indebtedness has been effectively converted to variable rates of interest, which will make us vulnerable to increases in interest rates;

we are substantially more leveraged than certain of our competitors, which might place us at a competitive disadvantage; and

we may be hindered in our ability to adjust rapidly to changing market conditions.

Our ability to make scheduled payments of the principal of, or to pay interest on, or to refinance our indebtedness and to make scheduled payments under our operating leases or to fund planned capital expenditures or finance acquisitions will depend on our future performance, which to a certain extent is subject to economic, financial, competitive and other factors beyond our control. There can be no assurance that our business will continue to generate sufficient cash flow from operations in the future to service our debt, make necessary capital expenditures or meet other cash needs. If unable to do so, we may be required to refinance all or a portion of our existing debt, to sell assets or to obtain additional financing.

A \$190.0 million portion of the purchase commitments under our Receivables Facility requires an annual renewal of its terms. That portion of the arrangement expires on August 30, 2005. The remaining \$135.0 million portion of the purchase commitments under the facility has a three-year term expiring on August 29, 2007. There can be no assurance that available funding or that any sale of assets or additional financing would be possible in amounts on terms favorable to us.

Over the next three years, we are obligated to pay approximately \$53.0 million relating to earnout agreements associated with past acquisitions, of which \$50.0 million is represented by a note payable which is included in our consolidated indebtedness as of June 30, 2004. A certain other acquisition agreement also contains contingent consideration provisions of up to \$20.0 million.

Table of Contents

Restrictive debt covenants contained in our revolving credit facility and the indenture under which our senior subordinated notes were issued may limit our ability to take certain actions.

The revolving credit facility and the indenture under which our senior subordinated notes were issued contain financial and operating covenants that limit the discretion of our management with respect to certain business matters including incurring additional indebtedness and paying dividends. The revolving credit facility also requires us to meet certain fixed charge tests depending on credit line availability. Our ability to comply with these and other provisions of the revolving credit facility and the indenture may be affected by changes in economic or business conditions or other events beyond our control. A failure to comply with the obligations contained in the revolving credit facility or the indenture could result in an event of default under either the revolving credit facility or the indenture which could result in acceleration of the related debt and the acceleration of debt under other instruments evidencing indebtedness that may contain cross-acceleration or cross-default provisions. If the indebtedness under the revolving credit facility were to be accelerated, there can be no assurance that our assets would be sufficient to repay in full such indebtedness and our other indebtedness.

Downturns in the electrical distribution industry have had in the past, and may in the future have, an adverse effect on our sales and profitability.

The electrical distribution industry is affected by changes in economic conditions, including national, regional and local slowdowns in construction and industrial activity, which are outside our control. Our operating results may also be adversely affected by increases in interest rates that may lead to a decline in economic activity, particularly in the construction market, while simultaneously resulting in higher interest payments under the revolving credit facility. In addition, during periods of economic slowdown such as the one we recently experienced, our credit losses, based on history, could increase. There can be no assurance that economic slowdowns, adverse economic conditions or cyclical trends in certain customer markets will not have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

An increase in competition could decrease sales or earnings.

We operate in a highly competitive industry. We compete directly with national, regional and local providers of electrical and other industrial MRO supplies. Competition is primarily focused in the local service area and is generally based on product line breadth, product availability, service capabilities and price. Other sources of competition are buying groups formed by smaller distributors to increase purchasing power and provide some cooperative marketing capability. During 1999 and 2000, numerous special purpose Internet-based procurement service companies, auction businesses and trade exchanges were organized. Many of them targeted industrial MRO and contractor customers of the type served by us. While the entrants did not have a noticeable impact on our business, we expect that new competitors could develop over time as Internet-based enterprises become more established and refine their service capabilities.

Some of our existing competitors have, and new market entrants may have, greater financial and marketing resources than we do. To the extent existing or future competitors seek to gain or retain market share by reducing prices, we may be required to lower our prices, thereby adversely affecting financial results. Existing or future competitors also may seek to compete with us for acquisitions, which could have the effect of increasing the price and reducing the number of suitable acquisitions. In addition, it is possible that competitive pressures resulting from the industry trend toward consolidation could affect growth and profit margins.

Loss of key suppliers or lack of product availability could decrease sales and earnings.

Most of our agreements with suppliers are terminable by either party on 60 days notice or less. Our ten largest suppliers in 2003 accounted for approximately 32% of our purchases for the period. Our largest supplier was Eaton Corporation, through its Eaton Electrical division, accounting for approximately 13% of our purchases. The loss of, or a substantial decrease in the availability of, products from any of our key suppliers, or the loss of key preferred supplier agreements, could have a material adverse effect on our business. Supply

Table of Contents

interruptions also could arise from shortages of raw materials, labor disputes or weather conditions affecting products or shipments, transportation disruptions, or other reasons beyond our control. In addition, certain of our products, such as wire and conduit, are commodity price based products and may be subject to significant price fluctuations which are beyond our control. An interruption of operations at any of our five distribution centers could have a material adverse effect on the operations of branches served by the affected distribution center. Furthermore, we cannot be certain that particular products or product lines will be available to us, or available in quantities sufficient to meet customer demand. Such limited product access could put us at a competitive disadvantage.

A disruption of our information systems could increase expenses, decrease sales or reduce earnings.

A serious disruption of our information systems could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. Our computer systems are an integral part of our business and growth strategies. We depend on our information systems to process orders, manage inventory and accounts receivable collections, purchase products, ship products to our customers on a timely basis, maintain cost-effective operations and provide superior service to our customers.

We may be subject to regulatory scrutiny and may sustain a loss of public confidence, if we are unable to satisfy regulatory requirements relating to internal controls over financial reporting.

Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires us to perform an evaluation of our internal controls over financial reporting and have our auditor attest to such evaluation on an annual basis. Compliance with these requirements is expected to be expensive and time-consuming. Although no assurance can be given, we believe that we will be able to meet the required deadlines. If we fail to timely complete this evaluation, or if our auditors cannot timely attest to our evaluations, we may be subject to regulatory scrutiny and a loss of public confidence in our internal controls.

WESCO International's controlling stockholders own approximately 46% of its common stock and can exercise significant influence over our affairs.

Approximately 46% of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock of WESCO International is held by The Cypress Group LLC and its affiliates. Accordingly, Cypress and its affiliates can exercise significant influence over our affairs, including the election of our directors, appointment of our management and approval of actions requiring the approval of our stockholders, including the adoption of amendments to our certificate of incorporation and approval of mergers or sales of substantially all of our assets.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

You should carefully review the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. In this prospectus, statements that are not reported financial results or other historical information are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements give current expectations or forecasts of future events and are not guarantees of future performance. They are based on our management's expectations that involve a number of business risks and uncertainties, any of which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements.

You can identify these forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historic or current facts. They use words such as anticipates, believes, estimates, expects, would, should, will, will likely result, forecast, outlook, projects, and similar in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance.

We cannot guarantee that any forward-looking statements will be realized, although we believe that we have been prudent in our plans and assumptions. Achievement of future results is subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that may prove to be inaccurate. Among others, the factors discussed in Risk Factors could cause actual results to differ from those in forward-looking statements included in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or that we otherwise make. Should known or unknown risks or

Table of Contents

uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove to be inaccurate, actual results could vary materially from those anticipated, estimated or projected. You should bear this in mind as you consider any forward-looking statements.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law. You are advised, however, to consider any additional disclosures that we may make on related subjects in future filings with the SEC. You should understand that it is not possible to predict or identify all factors that could cause our actual results to differ. Consequently, you should not consider any list of factors to be a complete set of all potential risks or uncertainties.

Table of Contents**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

Our consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the six months ended June 30, 2004 and the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1999 are as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2004	Year Ended December 31,				
		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Ratios of earnings to fixed charges	2.5x	1.7x	1.5x	1.6x	2.1x	2.0x

WESCO Distribution's ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the six months ended June 30, 2004 and the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1999 are as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2004	Year Ended December 31,				
		2003	2002	2001(1)	2000	1999
Ratios of earnings to fixed charges	1.9x	1.2x	1.0x	0.9x	1.1x	1.3x

(1) The dollar amount by which total fixed charges exceeded earnings for the year ended December 31, 2001 was \$9.4 million.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We and WESCO Distribution intend to use the net proceeds that we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, receive from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus for general corporate purposes unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a specific issuance of securities. These general corporate purposes include, but are not limited to, repayment, redemption or refinancing of debt, capital expenditures, investments in or loans to subsidiaries and joint ventures, funding of possible acquisitions, working capital, satisfaction of other obligations and repurchase of outstanding securities. Pending any such use, the net proceeds from the sale of the Securities may be invested in short-term, investment grade, interest-bearing instruments. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of Common Stock by any selling stockholder. We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, will include a more detailed description of the use of net proceeds of any specific offering in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the offering.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following is a general description of the debt securities (the Debt Securities) that we or WESCO Distribution may offer from time to time. The particular terms of the Debt Securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions described below may apply will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. We or WESCO Distribution may choose to issue debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars or in any other currency, including the euro.

The Debt Securities will be either senior Debt Securities or subordinated Debt Securities. We or WESCO Distribution will issue any senior Debt Securities under a senior indenture between us and/or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and a trustee. We and WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, will issue any subordinated Debt Securities under a subordinated indenture between us and/or WESCO Distribution and the same or another trustee. The senior indentures and the subordinated indentures are collectively referred to in this prospectus as the indentures, and the trustee or trustees under the senior indenture and the trustee or trustees under the subordinated indenture are collectively referred to in this prospectus as trustees.

Any Debt Securities issued by us may be guaranteed by WESCO Distribution. Any Debt Securities issued by WESCO Distribution will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by us.

The following description is only a summary of the material provisions of the indentures. We urge you to read the appropriate indenture because it, and not this description, defines your rights as holders of the Debt Securities. See the information under the heading Where You Can Find More Information for information on how to contact us for a copy of the appropriate indenture.

General

The senior Debt Securities are unsubordinated obligations, will rank on par with all other debt obligations of ours or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and, unless otherwise indicated in the related prospectus supplement, will be unsecured. The subordinated Debt Securities will be subordinate, in right of payment to senior Debt Securities. A description of the subordinated Debt Securities is provided below under Subordinated Debt Securities . The specific terms of any subordinated Debt Securities will be provided in the related prospectus supplement. For a complete understanding of the provisions pertaining to the subordinated Debt Securities, you should refer to the subordinated indenture attached as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Terms

The indentures do not limit the principal amount of debt we or WESCO Distribution may issue.

We and WESCO Distribution may issue notes or bonds in traditional paper form or in the form of a global security. The Debt Securities of any series may be issued in definitive form or, if provided in the related prospectus supplement, may be represented in whole or in part by a global security or securities, registered in the name of a depository designated by us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be. Each Debt Security represented by a global security is referred to as a Book-Entry Security.

Debt Securities may be issued from time to time pursuant to this prospectus and will be offered on terms determined by market conditions at the time of sale. Debt Securities may be issued in one or more series with the same or various maturities and may be sold at par, a premium or an original issue discount. Debt Securities sold at an original issue discount may bear no interest or interest at a rate that is below market rates. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, Debt Securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof.

Table of Contents

Please refer to the prospectus supplement for the specific terms of the Debt Securities offered including the following:

- whether the issuer of the Debt Securities is us or WESCO Distribution;
- designation of an aggregate principal amount, purchase price and denomination;
- date of maturity;
- if other than U.S. currency, the currency for which the Debt Securities may be purchased;
- the interest rate or rates and the method of calculating interest;
- the times at which any premium and interest will be payable;
- the place or places where principal, any premium and interest will be payable;
- any redemption or sinking fund provisions or other repayment obligations;
- any index used to determine the amount of payment of principal of and any premium and interest on the Debt Securities;
- the application, if any, of the defeasance provisions to the Debt Securities;
- if other than the entire principal amount, the portion of the Debt Securities that would be payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;
- whether the Debt Securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities, and in such case, the depository for the global securities;
- whether the Debt Securities issued by us will be guaranteed by WESCO Distribution;
- any additional covenants applicable to the Debt Securities being offered;
- any additional events of default applicable to the Debt Securities being offered;
- any cross default provisions, if applicable;
- the terms of subordination, if applicable;
- the terms of conversion, if applicable; and
- any other specific terms including any terms that may be required by or advisable under applicable law.

Except with respect to Book-Entry Securities, Debt Securities may be presented for exchange or registration of transfer, in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the Debt Securities and the prospectus supplement. Such services will be provided without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith, but subject to the limitations provided in the indentures.

Debt Guarantees

Debt Securities issued by us may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by WESCO Distribution, but will not otherwise be guaranteed by any other subsidiary. Debt Securities issued by WESCO Distribution will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by WESCO International, but will not otherwise be guaranteed. Any guarantee of Debt Securities will be set forth in the applicable indenture or a supplemental indenture and described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to an issuance of guaranteed Debt Securities. Financial information regarding the

Edgar Filing: WESCO DISTRIBUTION INC - Form S-3

guarantees can be found in the footnotes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Payments with respect to guarantees of Debt Securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all senior indebtedness of the guarantor to the same extent and manner that payments with respect to the Debt Securities are subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of the issuer of the Debt Securities.

Table of Contents

Certain Covenants in the Indentures

Payment

We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, will pay principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Debt Securities at the place and time described in the Debt Securities. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, will pay interest on any Debt Security to the Person in whose name that security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for that interest payment.

Any money deposited with the trustee or any paying agent for the payment of principal of or any premium or interest on any Debt Security that remains unclaimed for two years after that amount has become due and payable will be paid to us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, at our request. After this occurs, the holder of that security must look only to us for payment of that amount and not to the trustee or paying agent.

Liens

The Company will not, nor will it permit any Domestic Subsidiary to, directly or indirectly, issue, assume or Guarantee any Debt if such Debt or Guarantee is subordinate to the Notes and is secured by any Lien, without in any such case effectively securing, concurrently with the issuance, assumption or Guaranty of any such Debt, any series of Notes (together with, if the Company shall so determine, any other indebtedness of or Guaranteed by the Company or such Domestic Subsidiary ranking equally with such series of Notes and then existing or thereafter created) equally and ratably with such Debt, so long as such Debt is so secured; provided, however, that the foregoing restriction shall not apply to Permitted Liens. Permitted Liens means:

Liens on any property acquired, constructed or improved by the Company or any Domestic Subsidiary after the date hereof, which are created or assumed contemporaneously with or within three years after its acquisition, or completion of construction or improvement (or within six months thereafter pursuant to a firm commitment for financing arrangements entered into within that three-year period) to secure or provide for the payment of the purchase price or cost thereof, or Liens existing on any property at the time of its acquisition;

Liens existing on any property, shares of stock or indebtedness acquired from a Person merged with or into the Company or a Domestic Subsidiary after the date hereof;

with respect to any corporation that becomes a Domestic Subsidiary after the date hereof, Liens on property of, or shares of stock or indebtedness issued by, any such corporation existing at the time it becomes a Domestic Subsidiary and not incurred in connection with or in anticipation of such corporation becoming a Domestic Subsidiary;

Liens to secure Debt of a Domestic Subsidiary owed to the Company or Debt of a Domestic Subsidiaries owed to another Domestic Subsidiary;

Liens in favor of governmental bodies to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute;

any Lien existing on the date of the indenture; or

Liens for the sole purpose of extending, renewing or replacing Debt, in whole or in part, including any increase in the amount of such Debt not prohibited under this Indenture.

In the event that the Company shall hereafter secure any series of securities equally and ratably with any other obligation or indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of this Section, the Trustee is hereby authorized, but not required, to enter into an indenture or agreement supplemental hereto and to take such action, if any, as it may deem advisable to enable it to enforce effectively the rights of the Holders of the Notes so secured, equally and ratably with such other obligation or indebtedness.

Table of Contents

Limitations on Certain Sale and Leasebacks

The Company and its Subsidiaries may incur Attributable Debt in respect of a Sale and Leaseback Transaction after the date of this Indenture; provided, however, that the aggregate amount of any such Attributable Debt incurred after the date of this Indenture pursuant this Section 1011 shall not exceed \$75.0 million at any one time.

Merger and Consolidation

We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, will not merge or consolidate with any other entity or sell or convey all or substantially all of our or its assets, as the case may be, to any Person, firm, corporation or other entity, except that we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, may merge or consolidate with, or sell or convey all or substantially all of our or its assets, as the case may be, to any other entity if:

we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, are the continuing entity, or the successor entity (if other than us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be) is organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America or a State thereof and such entity expressly assumes payment of the principal and interest on all the Debt Securities, and the performance and observance of all of the covenants and conditions of the applicable indenture to be performed by us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be; and

there is no default under the applicable indenture.

Upon such a succession, we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, will be relieved from any further obligations under the applicable indenture. For purposes of this paragraph, substantially all of our or its assets means, at any date, a portion of the non-current assets reflected in our or WESCO Distribution's consolidated balance sheet, as the case may be, as of the end of the most recent quarterly period that represents at least 66 2/3% of the total reported value of such assets.

Waiver of Certain Covenants

Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, may, with respect to the Debt Securities of any series, omit to comply with any provision of the covenants described under **Liens** and **Limitations on Certain Sale and Leasebacks** above or in any covenant provided in the terms of those Debt Securities if, before the time for such compliance, holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of that series waive such compliance in that instance or generally.

Events of Default

An Event of Default occurs with respect to any series of Debt Securities when:

We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, default in paying principal of or premium, if any, on any of the Debt Securities of such series when due;

We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, default in paying interest on the Debt Securities of such series when due, continuing for 30 days;

We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, default in making deposits into any sinking fund payment with respect to any Debt Security of such series when due;

We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, or any guarantor, if applicable, fail to perform any other covenant or warranty in the Debt Securities of such series or in the applicable indenture continues for a period of 90 days after notice of such failure as provided in that indenture;

A guarantee is held in any judicial proceeding to be unenforceable or invalid;

Certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization occur; or

Any other Event of Default occurs with respect to Debt Securities of that series.

Table of Contents

We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, are required annually to deliver to the trustee officers certificates stating whether or not the signers have any knowledge of any default in the performance by us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, of certain covenants.

If an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Debt Securities of such series then outstanding may declare the Debt Securities of such series to be due and payable. If an Event of Default described in clause (vi) of the first paragraph under Events of Default occurs with respect to any series of Debt Securities, the principal amount of all Debt Securities of that series (or, if any securities of that series are original issue discount securities, the portion of the principal amount of such securities as may be specified by the terms thereof) will automatically become due and payable without any declaration by the trustee or the holders. The trustee is required to give holders of the Debt Securities of any series written notice of a default with respect to such series as and to the extent provided by the Trust Indenture Act, except that the trustee may not give such notice of a default described in clause (v) of the first paragraph under Events of Default until at least 60 days after the default. As used in this paragraph, a default means an event described in the first paragraph under Events of Default without including any applicable grace period.

If at any time after the Debt Securities of such series have been declared due and payable, and before any judgment or decree for the moneys due has been obtained or entered, we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, will pay or deposit with the trustee amounts sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest upon the Debt Securities of such series and the principal of all Debt Securities of such series which shall have become due, otherwise than by acceleration, together with interest on such principal and, to the extent legally enforceable, on such overdue installments of interest and all other amounts due under the applicable indenture shall have been paid, and any and all defaults with respect to such series under that indenture shall have been remedied, then the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities of such series then outstanding, by written notice to us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and the trustee, may rescind and annul the declaration that the Debt Securities of such series are due and payable. In addition, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities of such series may waive any past default and its consequences with respect to such series, except a default in the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any Debt Securities of such series or a default in the performance of a covenant that cannot be modified under the indentures without the consent of the holder of each affected Debt Security.

The trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the indentures at the request, order or direction of any of the holders of Debt Securities, unless such holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the trustee and certain limitations contained in the indentures, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities of each series at the time outstanding shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the Debt Securities of such series.

No holder of Debt Securities will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indentures, for the appointment of a receiver or trustee or for any other remedy under the indentures unless:

The holder has previously given written notice to the trustee of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the Debt Securities of that series; and

The holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of that series have made a written request to the trustee, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute proceedings as trustee, the trustee has failed to institute the proceedings within 60 days, and the trustee has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the Debt Securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holder of any Debt Security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of and any premium and, subject to the provisions of the applicable

Table of Contents

indenture regarding the payment of default interest, interest on that Debt Security on the due dates expressed in that security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment.

Modification of the Indentures

Each indenture contains provisions permitting us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and the trustee to modify that indenture or enter into or modify any supplemental indenture without the consent of the holders of the Debt Securities in regard to matters as shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the Debt Securities, including, without limitation, the following:

to evidence the succession of another corporation to us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be;

to add to the covenants of ours or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, further covenants for the benefit or protection of the holders of any or all series of Debt Securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, by that indenture;

to add any additional Events of Default with respect to all or any series of Debt Securities;

to add to or change any of the provisions of that indenture to facilitate the issuance of Debt Securities in bearer form with or without coupons, or to permit or facilitate the issuance of Debt Securities in uncertificated form;

to add to, change or eliminate any of the provisions of that indenture in respect of one or more series of Debt Securities thereunder, under certain conditions designed to protect the rights of any existing holder of those Debt Securities;

to secure all or any series of Debt Securities;

to establish the forms or terms of the Debt Securities of any series;

to evidence the appointment of a successor trustee and to add to or change provisions of that indenture necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under that indenture by more than one trustee;

to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision of that indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with another provision of that indenture;

to make other amendments that do not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any series of Debt Securities in any material respect;

to release a guarantor, if applicable, from its obligations under its guarantee (other than in accordance with the terms thereof) without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security so affected; and

to add or change or eliminate any provision of that indenture as shall be necessary or desirable in accordance with any amendments to the Trust Indenture Act.

We and the trustee may otherwise modify each indenture or any supplemental indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of each series of Debt Securities affected thereby at the time outstanding, except that no such modifications shall

extend the fixed maturity of any Debt Securities or any installment of interest or premium on any Debt Securities, or reduce the principal amount thereof or reduce the rate of interest or premium payable upon redemption, or reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount Debt Security or any other Debt Security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, or change the currency in which the Debt Securities are payable or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment after the stated maturity thereof or the redemption date, if applicable, or adversely affect any right of the holder of any Debt Security to require us to repurchase that security, without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security so affected;

Table of Contents

reduce the percentage of Debt Securities of any series, the consent of the holders of which is required for any waiver or supplemental indenture, without the consent of the holders of all Debt Securities affected thereby then outstanding; or

modify the provisions of that indenture relating to the waiver of past defaults or the waiver or certain covenants or the provisions described under Modification of the indentures, except to increase any percentage set forth in those provisions or to provide that other provisions of that indenture may not be modified without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security affected thereby, without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security affected thereby.

Satisfaction and Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

Each indenture shall be satisfied and discharged if (i) we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, shall deliver to the trustee all Debt Securities then outstanding for cancellation or (ii) all Debt Securities not delivered to the trustee for cancellation shall have become due and payable, are to become due and payable within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year, and we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, shall deposit an amount sufficient to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest to the date of maturity, redemption or deposit (in the case of Debt Securities that have become due and payable), provided that in either case we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, shall have paid all other sums payable under that indenture.

Each indenture provides, if such provision is made applicable to the Debt Securities of a series,

that we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, may elect either (A) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to any Debt Security of such series (except for the obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such Debt Security, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Debt Securities, to maintain an office or agency in respect of the Debt Securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust) (defeasance) or (B) to be released from our obligations with respect to such Debt Security under Sections 801, 803, 1005, 1006, 1007 and 1009 of that indenture (being the restrictions described above under Certain Covenants of ours in the indentures) together with additional covenants that may be included for a particular series; and

that Sections 501(4), 501(5) (as to Sections 801, 803, 1005, 1006, 1007 and 1009) and 501(8), as described in clauses (iv), (v) and (vii) under Events of Default, shall not be Events of Default under that indenture with respect to such series (covenant defeasance), upon the deposit with the trustee (or other qualifying trustee), in trust for such purpose, of money certain U.S. government obligations and/or, in the case of Debt Securities denominated in U.S. dollars, certain state and local government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money, in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such Debt Security, on the scheduled due dates.

In the case of defeasance, the holders of such Debt Securities are entitled to receive payments in respect of such Debt Securities solely from such trust. Such a trust may only be established if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an Opinion of Counsel (as specified in the indentures) to the effect that the holders of the Debt Securities affected thereby will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to Federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such Opinion of Counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (A) above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable Federal income tax law occurring after the date of the indentures.

Record Dates

The indentures provide that in certain circumstances we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, may establish a record date for determining the holders of outstanding Debt Securities of a series entitled to

Table of Contents

join in the giving of notice or the taking of other action under the applicable indenture by the holders of the Debt Securities of such series.

Subordinated Debt Securities

Although the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are generally similar and many of the provisions discussed above pertain to both senior and subordinated Debt Securities, there are many substantive differences between the two. This section discusses some of those differences.

Subordination

Subordinated Debt Securities will be subordinate, in right of payment, to all Senior Debt. Senior Debt is defined to mean, with respect to us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the following:

all indebtedness of ours or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, whether outstanding on the date of issuance or thereafter created, incurred or assumed, which is for money borrowed, or evidenced by a note or similar instrument given in connection with the acquisition of any business, properties or assets, including securities;

any indebtedness of others of the kinds described in the preceding clause for the payment of which we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, are responsible or liable (directly or indirectly, contingently or otherwise) as guarantor or otherwise; and

amendments, renewals, extensions and refundings of any indebtedness described in the preceding clauses (1) or (2), unless in any instrument or instruments evidencing or securing such indebtedness or pursuant to which the same is outstanding, or in any such amendment, renewal, extension or refunding.

Difference between Subordinated Debt Security Covenants and Senior Debt Security Covenants and Events of Default

Subordinated Debt Securities may not have the advantage of all of the covenants and Events of Default provided in the senior indenture. For example, covenants relating to Liens or Sale and Leaseback Transactions as discussed above are not applicable to securities issued pursuant to the subordinated indenture

Terms of Subordinated Debt Securities May Contain Conversion or Exchange Provisions

The prospectus supplement for a particular series of subordinated Debt Securities will describe the specific terms discussed above that apply to the subordinated Debt Securities being offered thereby as well as any applicable conversion or exchange provisions.

Modification of the Indenture Relating to Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated indenture may be modified by us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and the trustee without the consent of the Holders of the subordinated Debt Securities for one or more of the purposes discussed above under Modification of the indentures. We or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and the trustee may also modify the subordinated indenture to make provision with respect to any conversion or exchange rights for a given issue of subordinated Debt Securities.

Governing Law

The laws of the State of New York govern each indenture and will govern the Debt Securities.

Book-Entry Securities

The following description of book-entry securities will apply to any series of Debt Securities issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities except as otherwise described in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Book-entry securities of like tenor and having the same date will be represented by one or more global securities deposited with and registered in the name of a depository that is a clearing agent registered under the Exchange Act. Beneficial interests in book-entry securities will be limited to institutions that have accounts with the depository (participants) or Persons that may hold interests through participants.

Ownership of beneficial interests by participants will only be evidenced by, and the transfer of that ownership interest will only be effected through, records maintained by the depository. Ownership of beneficial interests by Persons that hold through participants will only be evidenced by, and the transfer of that ownership interest within such participant will only be effected through, records maintained by the participants. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Payment of principal of and any premium and interest on book-entry securities represented by a global security registered in the name of or held by a depository will be made to the depository, as the registered owner of the global security. Neither we nor WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, the trustee nor any agent of ours or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, or the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the depository s records or any participant s records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of the depository s records or any participant s records relating to the beneficial ownership interests. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global security held through such participants will be governed by the depository s procedures, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name, and will be the sole responsibility of such participants.

A global security representing a book-entry security is exchangeable for definitive Debt Securities in registered form, of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount registered in the name of, or is transferable in whole or in part to, a Person other than the depository for that global security, only if (a) the depository notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for that global security or the depository ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, (b) there shall have occurred and be continuing an Event of Default with respect to the Debt Securities of that series or (c) other circumstances exist that have been specified in the terms of the Debt Securities of that series. Any global security that is exchangeable pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be registered in the name or names of such Person or Persons as the depository shall instruct the trustee. It is expected that such instructions may be based upon directions received by the depository from its participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in such global security.

Except as provided above, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of Debt Securities in definitive form and will not be considered the holders thereof for any purpose under the indentures, and no global security shall be exchangeable, except for a security registered in the name of the depository. This means each Person owning a beneficial interest in such global security must rely on the procedures of the depository and, if such Person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such Person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indentures. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, request any action of holders or an owner of a beneficial interest in such global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the indentures, the depository would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take such action, and such participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through such participant to give or take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Certain Definitions

Set forth below are certain defined terms used in this Description of Debt Securities. Reference is made to the indentures for complete definitions of these terms, as well as any other capitalized terms used in this description for which no definition is provided. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus

Table of Contents

supplement, the following terms will mean as follows for purposes of covenants that may be applicable to any particular series of senior debt securities.

The term **Attributable Debt**, in respect of a Sale and Leaseback Transaction, means, as of any particular time, the present value (discounted at the rate of interest implicit in the lease involved in such Sale and Leaseback Transaction, as determined by us in good faith) of the obligation of the lessee thereunder for rental payments (excluding, however, any amounts required to be paid by the lessee, whether or not designated as rent or additional rent, on account of maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges or any amounts required to be paid by the lessee thereunder contingent upon the monetary inflation or the amount of sales, maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges) during the remaining term of the lease (including any period for which the lease has been extended or may, at the option of the lessor, be extended).

The term **Consolidated Net Tangible Assets** means the total of all the assets appearing on the consolidated balance sheet of us and our Subsidiaries or WESCO Distribution and its Subsidiaries, as the case may be, less the following: (A) current liabilities; (B) intangible assets such as goodwill, trademarks, trade names, patents and unamortized debt discount and expense; and (C) appropriate adjustments on account of minority interests of other Persons holding stock in any Subsidiary of ours or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be.

The term **Debt** means indebtedness for money borrowed.

The term **Domestic Subsidiary** means a Subsidiary formed under the laws of, or conducting its principal operations within, the United States or any State or territory thereof.

The term **Lien** means any mortgage, pledge, lien, encumbrance, charge or security interest of any kind, excluding certain liens relating to taxes, easements and similar liens arising in the ordinary course of business.

The term **Person** means an individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

The term **Principal Property** means any branch, distribution center or other operating facility owned by us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, or any Domestic Subsidiary, the book value of the real property, plant and equipment of which (as shown, without deduction of any depreciation reserves, on the books of the owner or owners) is not less than two percent of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets except (A) any such facility which our Board of Directors or the Board of Directors of WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, determines is not of material importance to the total business conducted, or assets owned, by us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be and our Domestic Subsidiaries or Domestic Subsidiaries of WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, as an entirety, or (B) any portion of any such facility which our Board of Directors determines or the Board of Directors of WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, not to be of material importance to the use or operation thereof.

The term **Sale and Leaseback Transaction** means any arrangement with any Person providing for the leasing to us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, or any Domestic Subsidiary of ours or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, of any Principal Property or portion thereof (except for temporary leases for a term, including any renewal thereof, of not more than 36 months and except for leases between us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and a Subsidiary or between Subsidiaries), which Principal Property (or portion thereof) has been or is to be sold or transferred by us or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, or such Domestic Subsidiary to such Person.

The term **Subsidiary** means with respect to any Person, any corporation, association or other business entity of which more than 50% of the outstanding voting stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by such Person and one or more Subsidiaries of such Person (or combination thereof). Unless otherwise specified, **Subsidiary** means a Subsidiary of ours.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL SECURITIES

Common Stock

We may issue, either separately or together with other securities, including as a part of units, shares of our Common Stock. Shares of Common Stock issued as part of units may be attached to or separate from any other securities part of those units. Under our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, we are authorized to issue up to 210,000,000 shares of our Common Stock. As of September 30, 2004, we had 42,114,320 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding. Under our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, we also are authorized to issue up to 20,000,000 shares of Class B nonvoting convertible common stock, \$.01 par value (Class B Common Stock). As of September 30, 2004, we had 4,339,431 shares of Class B Common Stock issued and held in our treasury. We will not offer any shares of Class B Common Stock under this prospectus.

A prospectus supplement relating to an offering of Common Stock or other securities convertible or exchangeable for, or exercisable into, Common Stock, or the settlement of which may result in the issuance of Common Stock, will describe the relevant terms, including the number of shares offered, any initial offering price and market price and dividend information, as well as, if applicable, information on other related securities.

The following summary is not complete and is not intended to give full effect to provisions of statutory or common law. You should refer to the applicable provisions of the following:

the Delaware General Corporation Law, as it may be amended from time to time;

our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as it may be amended or restated from time to time; and

our By-laws, as they may be amended or restated from time to time.

Voting Rights. Each holder of shares of Common Stock is entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted on by stockholders. Holders of Common Stock are not entitled to cumulative votes in the election of directors.

Dividend Rights. The holders of Common Stock are entitled to dividends and other distributions if, as and when declared by our Board of Directors out of assets legally available therefore, subject to the rights of any holder of preferred stock, restrictions set forth in our credit facilities and restrictions, if any, imposed by other indebtedness outstanding from time to time. The holders of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock are entitled to equivalent per share dividends and distributions.

Other Rights. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of shares of Common Stock would be entitled to share pro rata (on an equal basis with the holders of the Class B Common Stock) in the distribution of all of our assets remaining available for distribution after satisfaction of all its liabilities and the payment of the liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred stock. The holders of Common Stock have no preemptive or other subscription rights to purchase shares of our Common Stock, nor are they entitled to the benefits of any sinking fund provisions.

Class B Common Stock

Our Class B Common Stock is identical to our Common Stock in all respects except that the holders of Class B Common Stock will have no right to vote, except as required by law. Shares of Class B Common Stock automatically convert into the same number of shares of Common Stock upon the sale or transfer by the holder thereof to a non-affiliate of ours. To the extent permitted by law, each holder of Class B Common Stock is entitled to convert any or all shares of Class B Common Stock held into the same number of shares of Common Stock at any time.

Preferred Stock

We may elect to issue shares of our preferred stock, \$.01 par value (Preferred Stock), from time to time in one or more series, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may issue shares of

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock separately or as a part of purchase units, and any such shares issued as part of purchase units may be attached to or separate from any other securities part of those purchase units. Shares of our Preferred Stock may have dividend, redemption, voting and liquidation rights taking priority over our Common Stock and Class B Common Stock, and shares of Preferred Stock may be convertible into our Common Stock. The issuance of shares of Preferred Stock could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock and could adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of holders of shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock. The existence of authorized and undesignated shares of Preferred Stock may also have an adverse effect on the market price of our Common Stock. In addition, the issuance of any shares of Preferred Stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control.

Our Board of Directors is authorized, subject to any limitations prescribed by law, to provide for the issuance of shares of Preferred Stock in one or more series without any approval of our stockholders. Our Board of Directors determines the rights, qualifications, restrictions and limitations relating to each series of our Preferred Stock at the time of issuance, and such rights, qualifications, restrictions and limitations may differ with respect to those of shares of Preferred Stock of a different series. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes our Board of Directors, without further stockholder action, to provide for the issuance of up to 20,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, in one or more series. As of September 30, 2004, no shares of Preferred Stock have been designated or are issued and outstanding. We may amend from time to time our Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Preferred Stock.

The particular terms of any series of Preferred Stock being offered by us under this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series of Preferred Stock. Those terms may include:

the title and liquidation preference per share of the Preferred Stock offered and the number of shares offered;

the purchase price of the Preferred Stock offered;

the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends will be paid and the date from which dividends will begin to accumulate;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions of the Preferred Stock offered;

any conversion provisions of the Preferred Stock offered;

the voting rights, if any, of the Preferred Stock offered; and

any additional dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions of the Preferred Stock offered.

If the terms of any series of Preferred Stock being offered differ from the terms set forth in this prospectus, the definitive terms will be disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement. The summary in this prospectus is not complete. You should refer to the applicable Certificate of Amendment to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation or the applicable certificate of designations, as the case may be, establishing a particular series of Preferred Stock, in either case which will be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware and the SEC in connection with an offering of Preferred Stock.

The Preferred Stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable.

Dividend Rights. The Preferred Stock will be preferred over our Common Stock and Class B Common Stock as to payment of dividends. Before any dividends or distributions (other than dividends or distributions payable in Common Stock) on our Common Stock will be declared and set apart for payment or paid, the holders of shares of each series of Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors. We will pay those dividends either in cash, shares of Common Stock or Preferred Stock or otherwise, at the rate and on the date or dates set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. With respect to each series of Preferred Stock, the dividends on each share of the series will be cumulative from the

Table of Contents

date of issue of the share unless another date is set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the series. Accruals of dividends will not bear interest.

Rights Upon Liquidation. The Preferred Stock will be preferred over our Common Stock and Class B Common Stock as to assets so that the holders of each series of Preferred Stock will be entitled to be paid, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up and before any distribution is made to the holders of Common Stock, the amount set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, in this case the holders of Preferred Stock will not be entitled to any other or further payment. If upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up our assets are insufficient to permit the payment in full of the respective amounts to which the holders of all outstanding Preferred Stock are entitled, our entire remaining net assets will be distributed among the holders of each series of Preferred Stock in amounts proportional to the full amounts to which the holders of each series are entitled.

Redemption. All shares of any series of Preferred Stock will be redeemable to the extent set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the series. All shares of any series of Preferred Stock will be convertible into shares of our Common Stock or into shares of any other series of Preferred Stock to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Voting Rights. Except as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holders of Preferred Stock will be entitled to one vote for each share of Preferred Stock held by them on all matters properly presented to stockholders. The holders of Common Stock, Class B Common Stock and the holders of all series of Preferred Stock will vote together as one class.

Certain Provisions of Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation

Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides for a classified Board of Directors in which directors are divided into three classes, each class being elected for a term of three years expiring at successive yearly intervals. In addition, our Restated Certificate of Incorporation requires a vote of a majority of the remaining Board of Directors to fill a vacancy on our Board of Directors and does not permit vacancies to be filled by a vote of our stockholders. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that vacancies filled by our Board of Directors will be filled for the remainder of the term of the class in which the vacancy occurs. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation further states that a decrease in the number of directors will not shorten the term of any incumbent.

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law

We are a Delaware corporation subject to Section 203 of the DGCL. Section 203 provides in general that an interested stockholder acquiring more than 15% of the outstanding voting stock of a corporation subject to Section 203 but less than 85% of such stock may not engage in certain business combinations (as defined in Section 203) with the corporation for a period of three years subsequent to the date on which the stockholder became an interested stockholder unless:

prior to such date the corporation's board of directors approve either the business combination or the transaction in which the stockholder became an interested stockholder; or

the business combination is approved by the corporation's board of directors and authorized by a vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation not owned by the interested stockholder.

A business combination includes mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in financial benefit to a stockholder. Section 203 could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change of control attempts with respect to us and, accordingly, may discourage attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

Table of Contents

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for our Common Stock is Mellon Investor Shareholder Services LLC.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our Common Stock, Preferred Stock or Debt Securities. We may issue warrants independently or as part of purchase units, and warrants issued as part of purchase units may be attached to or separate from any other securities part of those purchase units. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any registered holders of warrants or beneficial owners of warrants. This summary of some provisions of the warrants is not complete. You should refer to the applicable warrant agreement, including the applicable form of warrant certificate, relating to the specific warrants being offered for the complete terms of the warrant agreement and the warrants, as well as the identity of the applicable warrant agent. That warrant agreement, together with the applicable form of warrant certificate, will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of the specific warrants and will be available by the means described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

The particular terms of any issue of warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the issue. Those terms may include:

the securities for which you may exercise the warrants;

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currencies, denominations and terms of the series of Debt Securities purchasable upon exercise of warrants to purchase Debt Securities and the price at which the Debt Securities may be purchased upon exercise, if applicable;

the designation, number of shares, stated value and terms (including, without limitation, liquidation, dividend, conversion and voting rights) of the series of Preferred Stock purchasable upon exercise of warrants to purchase shares of Preferred Stock and the price at which that number of shares of Preferred Stock of such series may be purchased upon exercise, if applicable;

the number of shares of Common Stock purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase shares of Common Stock and the price at which that number of shares of Common Stock may be purchased upon exercise, if applicable;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

the material U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to the warrants; and

any other terms of the warrants.

The exercise price and the expiration date for warrants, as well as the kind, frequency and timing of any notice to be given, will be subject to adjustment as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders of warrants may exchange warrant certificates for new warrant certificates of different denominations and may exercise warrants at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office that we indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the Common Stock, Preferred Stock or Debt Securities purchasable upon that exercise, as the case may be, and will not be entitled to payments of principal, premium or interest, as applicable, on any debt securities purchasable upon the exercise or dividend payments, if any, or voting rights of any Preferred Stock or Common Stock purchasable upon the exercise.

Each warrant will entitle its holder to purchase the principal amount of Debt Securities or the number of shares of Preferred Stock or Common Stock, as the case may be, at the exercise price set forth in, or calculable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration

Table of Contents

date, unexercised warrants will become void. We will specify the place or places where, and the manner in which, warrants may be exercised in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will forward the securities purchasable upon the exercise of warrants as soon as practicable after receipt of payment and the properly completed and executed warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or other office stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. If a holder of warrants exercises less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

At our option, we may elect to offer fractional interests in our Debt Securities or fractional shares of our Preferred Stock, rather than full interests in our Debt Securities or full shares of our Preferred Stock, as the case may be. If we exercise this option, we will issue to the public receipts for depositary shares, and each of these depositary shares will represent a fraction of a Debt Security of ours or of a share of a particular series of our Preferred Stock, as the case may be, and that fraction or the formula by which that fraction may be determined will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Depositary shares may be issued separately or as a part of units. Depositary shares issued as part of units may be attached to or separate from any other securities part of those units.

The Debt Securities or shares of any series of Preferred Stock underlying the depositary shares, as the case may be, will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company, as depositary. The depositary will have its principal office in the United States, unless specified otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the applicable deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of the Debt Security or share of Preferred Stock, as the case may be, underlying that depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the Debt Security or Preferred Stock, as the case may be, underlying that depositary share. Those rights include any applicable dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the depositary shares in accordance with the terms of the offering. This summary of some provisions of the depositary receipts is not complete. You should refer to the applicable deposit agreement, including the applicable form of depositary receipts, relating to the specific depositary receipts being offered for the complete terms of the deposit agreement and the depositary receipts and the identity of the depositary. That deposit agreement, together with the applicable form of depositary receipt, will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of the depositary receipts and will be available by the means described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Pending the preparation of definitive engraved depositary receipts and upon our written order, the depositary may issue temporary depositary receipts substantially identical to the definitive depositary receipts but not in definitive form. These temporary depositary receipts will entitle their holders to all the rights of definitive depositary receipts which are to be prepared without unreasonable delay. Temporary depositary receipts then will be exchangeable for definitive depositary receipts at our expense.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute any payments of interest, cash dividends or other cash distributions received with respect to the Debt Securities or Preferred Stock, as the case may be, to the record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares that are entitled to receive the distribution, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, with our approval, the depositary may

Table of Contents

sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the applicable holders in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If the Debt Security or series of Preferred Stock, as the case may be, represented by depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed with the proceeds received by the depositary from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that Debt Security or series of Preferred Stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price payable with respect to that Debt Security or series of the Preferred Stock, as the case may be. Whenever we redeem Debt Securities or shares of Preferred Stock that are held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the Debt Securities or shares of Preferred Stock, as the case may be, so redeemed. If fewer than all of the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata, as may be determined by the depositary.

Exercise of Rights or Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of Preferred Stock underlying depositary shares are entitled to vote, or of any request for instructions or directions from holders of Debt Securities underlying depositary shares, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the applicable depositary shares. Each record holder of the applicable depositary shares on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary how to give instructions or directions with respect to the Debt Securities represented by that holder's depositary shares or how to vote the amount of the Preferred Stock represented by that holder's depositary shares, as the case may be. The record date for the depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the underlying Debt Securities or Preferred Stock, as the case may be. The depositary then will attempt, to the extent practicable, to give instructions or directions with respect to the Debt Securities or to vote the number of shares of Preferred Stock underlying those depositary shares, as the case may be, in accordance with such instructions, and we will agree to take all actions which may be deemed necessary by the depositary to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not give instructions or directions with respect to Debt Securities or vote shares of Preferred Stock, as the case may be, if it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of the depositary shares representing interests in those securities.

Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing depositary shares and any provision of a deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. A deposit agreement may be terminated by us or by the depositary only if:

all outstanding depositary shares issued under that deposit agreement have been redeemed; or

with respect to all depositary shares issued under that deposit agreement, there has been a complete repayment or redemption of the underlying Debt Securities or a final distribution of the underlying Preferred Stock, as the case may be, including in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and the repayment, redemption or distribution proceeds, as the case may be, have been distributed to you.

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We also will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit and any redemption of the underlying Debt Securities or Preferred Stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay the transfer and other taxes and governmental and other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of Debt

Table of Contents

Securities or shares of Preferred Stock, as the case may be, upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the relevant deposit agreement.

Miscellaneous

The depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that we deliver to the depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the underlying Debt Securities or Preferred Stock, as the case may be.

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our respective obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the depositary will be limited to performance in good faith of our respective duties under the deposit agreement. Neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or underlying Debt Securities or Preferred Stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting Debt Securities or Preferred Stock, as the case may be, for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us of its election to resign. We may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of the appointment.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase from us, or sale to us, of our Common Stock, Preferred Stock, warrants, depositary shares or Debt Securities, or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities), an index or indices of those securities or any combination of those securities. Purchase contracts may be issued separately or in purchase units, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Purchase contracts issued as part of units may be attached to or separate from any other securities part of the units.

We may issue purchase contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and obligating us to sell to holders, a specified or varying number of securities at a purchase price, which may be based on a formula, at a future date. Alternatively, we may issue purchase contracts obligating us to purchase from holders, and obligating holders to sell to us, a specified or varying number of securities at a purchase price, which may be based on a formula, at a future date. We may satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the subject securities or by delivering the cash value of the purchase contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell the subject securities, as the case may be, and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of those purchase contracts or vice versa, and the periodic payments may be unsecured or pre-funded and may be paid on a current or deferred basis. The purchase contracts may require holders of those purchase contracts to secure their obligations under the contracts in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations under the purchase contracts when the purchase contracts are issued, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

This summary of some provisions of the purchase contracts is not complete. You should refer to the purchase contract agreement, including the applicable form of purchase contract security certificate, relating to the specific purchase contracts being offered for the complete terms of the purchase contract agreement and

Table of Contents

the purchase contracts. That purchase contract agreement, together with the applicable form of purchase contract security certificate, will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of the specific purchase contracts and will be available by the means described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue purchase units consisting of our purchase contracts taken together with our Common Stock, Preferred Stock, warrants, depositary shares or Debt Securities, warrants or purchase contracts, or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury Securities), in any combination, which may be purchased with the proceeds of the sales of purchase units. The securities comprising the purchase units may or may not be separate from one another, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

the designation and the terms of the purchase units and of the securities constituting the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;

any additional terms of the governing purchase unit agreement; and

any additional provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the purchase units or of the securities constituting the purchase units.

The terms and conditions described in this prospectus under [Description of Debt Securities](#), [Description of Capital Securities](#), [Description of Warrants](#), [Description of Depositary Shares](#), and [Description of Purchase Contracts](#) will apply to each purchase unit and to any security included in each purchase unit, as applicable, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We will issue the purchase units under one or more purchase unit agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as unit agent. We may issue purchase units in one or more series, which will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. This summary of some provisions of the purchase units is not complete. You should refer to the purchase unit agreement, including the applicable form of purchase unit certificate, relating to the specific purchase units being offered for the complete terms of the purchase unit agreement and the purchase units and the identity of the unit agent with respect to those purchase units. That purchase unit agreement, together with the applicable form of purchase unit certificate, will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of the specific purchase units and will be available by the means described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The selling stockholders may be our directors, executive officers, employees or certain holders of our Common Stock, including The Cypress Group LLC, the holder of approximately 46% of our Common Stock as of September 30, 2004. A prospectus supplement relating to any offering under this prospectus by one or more selling stockholders will include the following:

the names of the one or more selling stockholders;

the number of shares of Common Stock held by each of the selling stockholders; and

the number of shares of Common Stock offered by each of the selling stockholders.

Pursuant to a registration and participation agreement, members of an investor group led by affiliates of Cypress and members of management who hold Common Stock have the right, under certain circumstances and subject to certain conditions, to request that we register under the Securities Act shares of our Common Stock held by them. Subject to certain conditions and exceptions, the investor group and the management stockholders also have the right to require that shares of Common Stock held by them be included in any registration under the Securities Act commenced by us. As of the date of this prospectus, no such stockholder has requested that we register its shares of Common Stock in an offering under this prospectus. The

Table of Contents

registration and participation agreement provides that we will pay all expenses in connection with the first three registrations requested by the investor group and the management stockholders. The registration and participation agreement also provides that we will indemnify the investors and the management stockholders and their affiliates for certain liabilities they may incur under the securities laws.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We, WESCO Distribution and any selling stockholders may offer the offered securities in one or more of the following ways, or any other way set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement from time to time:

to or through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters;

through one or more underwriters without a syndicate for them to offer and sell to the public;

through dealers or agents;

to investors directly in negotiated sales or in competitively bid transactions; or

to holders of other securities in exchanges in connection with acquisitions.

The prospectus supplement for each series of securities we, WESCO Distribution or any selling stockholders sell will describe the offering, including:

the name or names of any underwriters;

the purchase price and the proceeds to us from that sale;

any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation, which in the aggregate will not exceed eight percent of the gross proceeds of the offering;

any commissions paid to agents;

the initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

Underwriters

If underwriters are used in a sale, we, WESCO Distribution or the selling stockholders, as the case may be, will execute an underwriting agreement with them regarding those securities. Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase these securities will be subject to conditions, and the underwriters must purchase all of these securities if any are purchased.

The securities subject to the underwriting agreement may be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold by them from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from the purchasers of these securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell these securities to or through dealers. These dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Any initial offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We may authorize underwriters to solicit offers by institutions to purchase the securities subject to the underwriting agreement from us, at the public offering price stated in the applicable prospectus supplement under delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. If we sell securities under these delayed delivery contracts, the applicable prospectus supplement will state that this is the case and will describe the conditions to which these delayed delivery contracts will be subject and the commissions payable for that solicitation.

Table of Contents

In connection with underwritten offerings of the securities, the underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act, as follows:

Over-allotment transactions involve sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position for the underwriters.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions.

Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a broker/ dealer when the securities originally sold by that broker-dealer are repurchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions.

These stabilizing transactions, covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it otherwise would be in the absence of these transactions. If these transactions occur, they may be discontinued at any time.

Agents

We also may sell any of the securities through agents designated by us from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of these securities and will list commissions payable by us to these agents in the applicable prospectus supplement. These agents will be acting on a best efforts basis to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment, unless stated otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Direct Sales

We, WESCO Distribution or any selling stockholders may sell any of the securities directly to purchasers. In this case, we, WESCO Distribution or any selling stockholders will not engage underwriters or agents in the offer and sale of these securities.

In addition, Debt Securities, shares of Common Stock or Preferred Stock or other of our securities described in this prospectus may be issued upon the exercise of warrants or the settlement of purchase contracts or units.

Indemnification

We, WESCO Distribution or any selling stockholders may indemnify underwriters, dealers or agents who participate in the distribution of securities against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and may agree to contribute to payments that these underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make.

No Assurance of Liquidity

The securities we, WESCO Distribution or any selling stockholders offer may be a new issue of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters that purchase securities from us, WESCO Distribution or any selling stockholders may make a market in these securities. The underwriters will not be obligated, however, to make a market and may discontinue market-making at any time without notice to holders of the securities. We cannot assure you that there will be liquidity in the trading market for any securities of any series offered under this prospectus.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the offered securities will be passed upon for us by Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of WESCO International, Inc. incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of such firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered, other than underwriting compensation, are:

SEC registration fee	\$ 50,680
Blue Sky fees and expenses	5,000
Legal fees and expenses	50,000
Accounting fees and expenses	50,000
Trustee s fees and expenses	15,000
Printing and engraving fees	50,000
Miscellaneous	29,230
	<hr/>
Total	\$250,000
	<hr/>

All of the above amounts, other than the SEC filing fee, are estimates only.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL") permits a corporation, in its certificate of incorporation, to limit or eliminate, subject to certain statutory limitations, the liability of directors to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of fiduciary duty, except for liability (a) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (c) under Section 174 of the DGCL or (d) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. Our restated certificate provides, among other things, that the personal liability of our directors is so eliminated.

Under Section 145 of the DGCL, a corporation has the power to indemnify directors and officers under certain prescribed circumstances and subject to certain limitations against certain costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, to which any of them is a party by reason of his being a director or officer of the corporation if it is determined that he acted in accordance with the applicable standard of conduct set forth in such statutory provision.

Our By-laws and the By-laws of WESCO Distribution provide that we and they will indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that the person is or was or has agreed to become a director or officer of WESCO International or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, or is or was serving or has agreed to serve at the request of WESCO International as a director or officer, of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken or omitted in such capacity. We and WESCO Distribution may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to such an action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that the person is or was or has agreed to become an employee or agent of WESCO International or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, or is or serving or has agreed to serve at the request of WESCO International or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, as an employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or on his behalf in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding and any appeal therefrom, if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of WESCO International or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, and, with respect to any

Table of Contents

criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful; except that in the case of an action or suit by or in the right of WESCO International or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, to procure a judgment in its favor (1) such indemnification will be limited to expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in the defense or settlement of such action or suit, and (2) no indemnification will be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person will have been adjudged to be liable to WESCO International or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, unless and only to the extent that the Delaware Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought determines upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Delaware Court of Chancery or such other court deems proper.

We and WESCO Distribution are also authorized to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was or has agreed to become a director or officer, or is or was serving at our request as a director or officer of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not we or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be, would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the DGCL, provided that such insurance is available on acceptable terms, which determination will be made by a vote of a majority of the entire Board of Directors of WESCO International or WESCO Distribution, as the case may be.

Item 16. Exhibits.

The following Exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

Exhibit Number	Description
*1.1	Form of Purchase Agreement.
*1.2	Form of Distribution Agreement.
3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of WESCO International, Inc., as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
3.2	By-laws of WESCO International, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
3.3	Certificate of Incorporation of WESCO Distribution, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4/A filed on June 24, 1998 (File No. 333-43225)).
3.4	By-laws of WESCO Distribution, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4/A filed on June 24, 1998 (File No. 333-43225)).
4.1	Indenture, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO International, Inc., WESCO Distribution, Inc. and Bank One, N.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.2	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008, Series A (included in Exhibit 4.1).
4.3	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008, Series B (included in Exhibit 4.1).
4.4	Exchange and Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers (as defined therein) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.5	Exchange and Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers (as defined therein) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description
4.6	Indenture, dated as of August 23, 2001, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and Bank One, N.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.7	Exchange and Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers (as defined therein) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.8	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008 (included in Exhibit 4.6).
4.9	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008 (included in Exhibit 4.6).
4.10	Form of Indenture for Senior Debt.
4.11	Form of Senior Debt Security (included in Exhibit 4.10).
4.12	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt.
4.13	Form of Subordinated Debt Security (included in Exhibit 4.12).
*4.14	Form of Certificate of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value.
*4.15	Form of Certificate of Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value.
*4.8	Form of Warrant Agreement.
*4.9	Form of Warrant Certificate.
*4.10	Form of Deposit Agreement.
*4.11	Form of Depositary Receipt.
*4.12	Form of Purchase Contract Agreement.
*4.13	Form of Purchase Contract Security Certificate.
*4.14	Form of Purchase Unit Agreement.
*4.15	Form of Purchase Unit Certificate.
5.1	Opinion of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP.
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
23.2	Consent of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP (included as part of Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Powers of Attorney with respect to WESCO International, Inc. (included on signature page).
24.2	Powers of Attorney with respect to WESCO Distribution, Inc. (included on signature page).
*25.1	Form of T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Senior Debt Indenture Trustee.
*25.2	Form of T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Subordinated Debt Indenture Trustee.

* To be filed either by amendment to this Registration Statement or as an exhibit to a report filed under the Exchange Act and incorporated herein by reference.

Filed herewith.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrants hereby undertake:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration

Table of Contents

statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table on the cover of this registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrants pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrants hereby undertake that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the undersigned registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the undersigned registrants pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the undersigned registrants has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the undersigned registrants of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the undersigned registrants in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the undersigned registrants will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) The undersigned registrants hereby undertake to file an application for the purpose of determining eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act (the Act) in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, each of the undersigned registrants certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Pittsburgh, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 22, 2004.

WESCO INTERNATIONAL, INC.

WESCO DISTRIBUTION, INC.

By: /s/ ROY W. HALEY

By: /s/ ROY W. HALEY

Name: Roy W. Haley
 Title: *Chairman and Chief Executive
 Officer (Principal Executive Officer)*

Name: Roy W. Haley
 Title: *Chairman and Chief Executive
 Officer (Principal Executive Officer)*

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each of the undersigned directors and officers of WESCO International, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and WESCO Distribution, Inc., a Delaware corporation, do hereby constitute and appoint Roy W. Haley and Stephen A. Van Oss, or either of them, the undersigned's true and lawful attorneys and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution in each, to do any and all acts and things in our name and on our behalf in our respective capacities as directors and officers and to execute any and all instruments for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below, which said attorneys and agents, or either one of them, may deem necessary or advisable to enable said corporation to comply with the Securities Act, as amended, and any rules, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, in connection with this registration statement, including specifically, but without limitation, power and authority to sign for us or any of us in our names in the capacities indicated below, any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments, whether pursuant to Rule 462(b) or otherwise) hereto, and each of the undersigned does hereby ratify and confirm all that said attorneys and agents, or either one of them or any substitute, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. This Power of Attorney may be executed in any number of counterparts.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
<u>/s/ ROY W. HALEY</u> Roy W. Haley	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	October 22, 2004
<u>/s/ STEPHEN A. VAN OSS</u> Stephen A. Van Oss	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial and Administrative Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	October 22, 2004
<u>/s/ JAMES L. SINGLETON</u> James L. Singleton	Director	October 22, 2004
<u>James A. Stern</u> James A. Stern	Director	October 22, 2004

Table of Contents

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/ MICHAEL J. CHESHIRE	Director	October 22, 2004
Michael J. Cheshire		
/s/ ROBERT J. TARR, JR.	Director	October 22, 2004
Robert J. Tarr, Jr.		
/s/ KENNETH L. WAY	Director	October 22, 2004
Kenneth L. Way		
/s/ GEORGE L. MILES, JR.	Director	October 22, 2004
George L. Miles, Jr.		
/s/ SANDRA BEACH LIN	Director	October 22, 2004
Sandra Beach Lin		
	Director	October 22, 2004
William J. Vareschi		

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit Number	Description
*1.1	Form of Purchase Agreement.
*1.2	Form of Distribution Agreement.
3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of WESCO International, Inc., as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
3.2	By-laws of WESCO International, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
3.3	Certificate of Incorporation of WESCO Distribution, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4/A filed on June 24, 1998 (File No. 333-43225)).
3.4	By-laws of WESCO Distribution, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4/A filed on June 24, 1998 (File No. 333-43225)).
4.1	Indenture, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO International, Inc., WESCO Distribution, Inc. and Bank One, N.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.2	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008, Series A (included in Exhibit 4.1).
4.3	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008, Series B (included in Exhibit 4.1).
4.4	Exchange and Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers (as defined therein) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.5	Exchange and Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers (as defined therein) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.6	Indenture, dated as of August 23, 2001, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and Bank One, N.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.7	Exchange and Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 5, 1998, among WESCO Distribution, Inc., WESCO International, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers (as defined therein) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the Registration Statement of WESCO International, Inc. and WESCO Distribution, Inc. on Form S-4 filed on September 28, 2001 (File No. 333-70404)).
4.8	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008 (included in Exhibit 4.6).
4.9	Form of 9 1/8% Senior Subordinated Note Due 2008 (included in Exhibit 4.6).
4.10	Form of Indenture for Senior Debt.
4.11	Form of Senior Debt Security (included in Exhibit 4.10).
4.12	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt.
4.13	Form of Subordinated Debt Security (included in Exhibit 4.12).
*4.14	Form of Certificate of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value.
*4.15	Form of Certificate of Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value.
*4.8	Form of Warrant Agreement.
*4.9	Form of Warrant Certificate.
*4.10	Form of Deposit Agreement.

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description
*4.11	Form of Depositary Receipt.
*4.12	Form of Purchase Contract Agreement.
*4.13	Form of Purchase Contract Security Certificate.
*4.14	Form of Purchase Unit Agreement.
*4.15	Form of Purchase Unit Certificate.
5.1	Opinion of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP.
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
23.2	Consent of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP (included as part of Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Powers of Attorney with respect to WESCO International, Inc. (included on signature page).
24.2	Powers of Attorney with respect to WESCO Distribution, Inc. (included on signature page).
*25.1	Form of T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Senior Debt Indenture Trustee.
*25.2	Form of T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Subordinated Debt Indenture Trustee.

* To be filed either by amendment to this Registration Statement or as an exhibit to a report filed under the Exchange Act and incorporated herein by reference.

Filed herewith.