

United States Bankruptcy Court

Northern District of Illinois

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In re: :

Wickes, Inc. :

Debtor :

Chapter 11
Case No. 04-02221
Claim No. 253

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**NOTICE OF TRANSFER CLAIM
PURSUANT TO RULE 3001 (E) (2) OF
THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE**

1. TO: **Southern Fastening Systems
635 Fairgrounds Rd., Ste. 175
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661**

2. Your entire claim in the amount of **\$20,217.19**
has been transferred pursuant to the Purchase Letter
dated as of July 19, 2004 to:

Argo Partners
12 West 37th Street, 9th Floor,
New York, NY 10018

ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIM

Southern Fastening Systems, having a mailing address at **635 Fairgrounds Rd., Ste. 175, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661** ("Assignor"), in consideration of the sum of \$ (the "Purchase Price"), does hereby transfer to Argo Partners having an address at 12 West 37th Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10018 ("Assignee") all of Assignor's right, title and interest in and to the claim or claims of Assignor, as more specifically set forth (the "Claim") against **Wickes, Inc.** ("Debtor"), Debtor in proceedings for reorganization (the "Proceedings") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the **Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division** (the "Court"), **Case No. 04-02221** in the currently outstanding amount of not less than **\$18,035.63** and all rights and benefits of Assignor relating to the Claim, including without limitation the Proof of Claim identified below and Assignor's rights to receive all interest, penalties and fees, if any, which may be paid with respect to the Claim, and all cash, securities, instruments and other property which may be paid or issued by Debtor in satisfaction of the Claim. The Claim is based on amounts owed to Assignor by Debtor as set forth below and this assignment shall be deemed an absolute and unconditional assignment of the Claim for the purpose of collection and shall not be deemed to create a security interest.

Assignor represents and warrants that (Please Check One):

A Proof of Claim has not been filed in the proceedings.

A Proof of Claim in the amount of \$ **20,217.19** been duly and timely filed in the Proceedings (and a true copy of such Proof of Claim is attached to this Assignment). If the Proof of Claim amount differs from the Claim amount set forth above, Assignee shall nevertheless be deemed the owner of that Proof of Claim subject to the terms of this Agreement and shall be entitled to identify itself as owner of such Proof of Claim on the records of the Court.

Assignor further represents and warrants that the amount of the Claim is not less than **\$18,035.63** that the Claim in that amount is valid and that no objection to the Claim exists. Assignor further represents and warrants that no payment has been received by Assignor, or by any third party claiming through Assignor, in full or partial satisfaction of the Claim, that Assignor has not previously assigned, sold or pledged the Claim to any third party, in whole or in part, that Assignor owns and has title to the Claim free of any and all liens, security interests or encumbrances of any kind or nature whatsoever, and that there are no offsets or defenses that have been or may be asserted by or on behalf of Debtor or any other party to reduce the amount of the Claim or to impair its value.

Assignor is aware that the above Purchase Price may differ from the amount ultimately distributed in the Proceedings with respect to the Claim and that such amount may not be absolutely determined until entry of a final order confirming a plan of reorganization. Assignor acknowledges that, except as set forth in this Assignment, neither Assignee nor any agent or representative of Assignee has made any representation whatsoever to Assignor regarding the status of the Proceedings, the condition of Debtor (financial or otherwise) or any other matter relating to the Proceedings, the Debtor or the Claim. Assignor represents that it has adequate information concerning the business and financial condition of Debtor and the status of the Proceedings to make an informed decision regarding the sale of the Claim and that it has independently and without reliance on Assignee, and based on such information as Assignor has deemed appropriate (including information available from the files of the Court in the Proceedings), made its own analysis and decision to enter into this Assignment of Claim.

Assignor agrees to make to Assignee immediate proportional restitution and repayment of the above Purchase Price to the extent that the Claim is disallowed for any reason whatsoever in whole or in part, together with interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per-annum on the amount repaid for the period from the date of this Assignment through the date such repayment is made. Assignor further agrees to reimburse Assignee for all losses, costs, and expenses, including reasonable legal fees and costs, incurred by assignee as a result of such disallowance.

In the event the Claim is ultimately allowed in an amount in excess of the amount purchased herein, Assignor is hereby deemed to sell to Assignee, and Assignee hereby agrees to purchase, the balance of said Claim at the same percentage of claim paid herein not to exceed twice the claim amount specified above. Assignee shall remit such payment to Assignor upon Assignee's satisfaction that the Claim has been allowed in the higher amount and is not subject to any objection by the Debtor.

Assignor hereby irrevocably appoints Assignee as its true and lawful attorney and authorizes Assignee to act in Assignor's stead, to demand, sue for, compromise and recover all such amounts as now are, or may hereafter become, due and payable for or on account of the Claim herein assigned. Assignor grants unto Assignee full authority to do all things necessary to

enforce the claim and its rights there under pursuant to this Assignment of Claim. Assignor agrees that the powers granted by this paragraph are discretionary in nature and that Assignee may exercise or decline to exercise such powers at Assignee's sole option. Assignee shall have no obligation to take any action to prove or defend the Claim's validity or amount in the Proceedings. Assignor agrees to take such further action, at its own expense, as may be necessary or desirable to effect the assignment of the Claim and any payments or distributions on account of the Claim to Assignee including, without limitation, the execution of appropriate transfer powers, corporate resolutions and consents.

Assignor agrees to forward to Assignee all notices received from Debtor, the Court or any third party with respect to the Claim assigned herein and to vote the Claim, and to take such other action with respect to the Claim in the Proceedings, as assignee may from time to time request. Assignor further agrees that any distribution received by Assignor on account of the Claim, whether in the form of cash, securities, instrument or any other property, shall constitute property of Assignee to which Assignee has an absolute right, and that Assignor will hold such property in trust and will, at its own expense, promptly deliver to Assignee any such property in the same form received, together with any endorsements or documents necessary to transfer such property to Assignee.

The terms of this Assignment of Claim shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of Assignor, Assignee and their respective successors and assigns.

Assignor hereby acknowledges that Assignee may at any time reassign the Claim, together with all right, title and interest of Assignee in and to this Assignment of Claim. All representation and warranties made herein shall survive the execution and delivery of this Assignment of Claim and any such re-assignment. This Assignment of Claim may be executed in counterparts and all such counterparts taken together shall be deemed to constitute a single agreement.

This Assignment of Claim shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. Any action arising under or relating to this Assignment of Claim may be brought in any State or Federal court located in the State of New York, and Assignor consents to and confers personal jurisdiction over Assignor by such court or courts and agrees that service of process may be upon Assignor by mailing a copy of said process to Assignor at the address set forth in this Assignment of Claim, and in any action hereunder Assignor waives the right to demand a trial by jury.

CONSENT AND WAIVER

Assignor hereby acknowledges and consents to all of the terms set forth in this Assignment of Claim and hereby waives its right to raise any objections thereto and its right to receive notice pursuant to Rule 3001 of the Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned **Assignor** hereunto sets its hand this 19th day of July 2004.

ATTEST:

By: /s/ Jeff Wilson
Signature

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned on behalf of each **Assignee** has hereunto sets its hand this 21st day of July 2004.

ATTEST:

By: /s/ Matthew Binstock
Argo Partners
212-643-5446