#### AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD

Form 4

January 19, 2006

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

**OMB** Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

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**OMB APPROVAL** 

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subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

below)

TASCO FRANK J

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD

(Check all applicable)

[AXS]

(Last)

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

X\_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify

(Month/Day/Year) 01/17/2006

C/O AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED, 106 PITTS BAY ROAD

(Street)

(First)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line)

\_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (I) Following (Instr. 4)

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

Reported Transaction(s)

or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

(A)

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 1. Title of (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction of Derivative Expiration Date Conversion

5. Number

6. Date Exercisable and

7. Title and Amount of 8. Price Underlying Securities Deriva

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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securitic Acquire (A) or Dispose (D) (Instr. 3 and 5)	d d of	(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)		Securi (Instr.
				Code V	7 (A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Phantom Stock	<u>(1)</u>	01/17/2006		A	1,136		(2)	(2)	Common Shares	1,136	<u>(1</u>

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

TASCO FRANK J
C/O AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
106 PITTS BAY ROAD
PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08

# **Signatures**

John R. Charman, Attorney-in-Fact

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Phantom Stock represents common shares issued in lieu of directors' fees that have been deferred using the closing sale price on January 17, 2006 of \$30.80 per share.
- (2) Phantom Stock is generally distributed when service as a director ceases.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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