

NOVARTIS AG
Form 424B3
February 27, 2007

Rule 424(b)(3) 333-137108

THE RIGHT OF HOLDERS HEREOF TO DIRECT THE VOTING OF SHARES MAY BE RESTRICTED AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS (6) AND (13) BELOW.

Number

No. of ADSs:

Each ADSs represent
One Share

CUSIP:

AMERICAN DEPOSITARY RECEIPT

evidencing

AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES

representing

SHARES, NOMINAL VALUE 0.5 SWISS FRANCS PER SHARE

of

NOVARTIS AG

(Incorporated under the
laws of Switzerland)

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., a national banking association organized under the laws of the United States, as depositary hereunder (the "Depositary"), hereby certifies that _ is the registered owner (a "Holder") of _American Depositary Shares ("ADSs"), each (subject to paragraph (14)) representing one Share, nominal value 0.5 Swiss Francs per Share (including the rights to receive Shares described in paragraph (1), "Shares" and, together with any other securities, cash or property from time to time held by the Depositary in respect or in lieu of deposited Shares, the "Deposited Securities"), of Novartis AG, a corporation organized under the laws of Switzerland, and its successors(the "Company"), deposited at the Geneva office of the Custodian (subject to paragraph (16), the "Custodian"), under the Amended and Restated Deposit Agreement dated as of May 11, 2000 to the Deposit Agreement dated as of December 17, 1996 (as so amended and restated and as further amended from time to time, the "Deposit Agreement") among the Company, the Depositary and all Holders from time to time of American Depositary Receipts issued thereunder ("ADRs"), each of whom by accepting an ADR becomes a party thereto. The Deposit Agreement and this ADR (which includes the provisions set forth on the reverse hereof) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

(1) Issuance of ADRs. This ADR is one of the ADRs issued under the Deposit Agreement. Subject to paragraph (4), the Depositary may so issue ADRs for delivery at the Transfer Office (defined in paragraph (3)) only against deposit with the Custodian of: (a) Shares in form satisfactory to the Custodian; (b) rights to receive Shares from the Company or any registrar, transfer agent, clearing agent or other entity recording Share ownership or transactions; or, (c) unless requested in writing by the Company to cease doing so at least two business days in advance of the proposed deposit, other rights to receive Shares (until such Shares are actually deposited pursuant to (a) or (b) above, "Pre-released ADRs") only if (i) Pre-released ADRs are at all times fully collateralized (marked to market daily) with cash or U.S. government securities held by the Depositary for the benefit of Holders and beneficial owners of ADSs (but such collateral shall not constitute "Deposited Securities"), (ii) each recipient of Pre-released ADRs agrees in writing with the Depositary that such recipient (a) owns such Shares, (b) assigns all beneficial right, title and interest therein to the Depositary, (c) holds such Shares for the account of the Depositary in its capacity as such and for the benefit of the Holders and beneficial owners and (d) will deliver such Shares to the Custodian as soon as practicable and promptly upon demand therefor and (iii) all Pre-released ADRs evidence not more than 20% of all ADSs (excluding those evidenced by Pre-released ADRs), except that the Depositary may, with the prior consent of the Company, change such limit. The Depositary may retain for its own account any earnings on collateral for Pre-released ADRs and its charges for issuance thereof. At the request, risk and expense of the person depositing Shares, the Depositary may accept deposits for forwarding to the Custodian and may deliver ADRs at a place other than its office. Every person depositing Shares under the Deposit Agreement represents and warrants that such Shares are validly issued and outstanding, fully paid, nonassessable and free of pre-emptive rights, that the person making such deposit is duly authorized so to do and that such Shares (A) are not "restricted securities" as such term is defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933 unless at the time of deposit they may be freely transferred in accordance with Rule 144(k) and may otherwise be offered and sold freely in the United States or (B) have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933. Such representations and warranties shall survive the deposit of Shares and issuance of ADRs. The Depositary will not knowingly accept for deposit under the Deposit Agreement any Shares required to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and not so registered; the Depositary may refuse to accept for such deposit any Shares identified by the Company in order to facilitate the Company's compliance with such Act.

(2) Withdrawal of Deposited Securities. Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), upon surrender of (i) a certificated ADR in form satisfactory to the Depositary at the Transfer Office or (ii) proper instructions and documentation in the case of a Direct Registration ADR, the Holder hereof is entitled to delivery at the Custodian's office of the Deposited Securities at the time represented by the ADSs evidenced by this ADR. At the request, risk and expense of the Holder hereof, the Depositary may deliver such Deposited Securities at such other place as may have been requested by the Holder. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Deposit Agreement or this ADR, the withdrawal of Deposited Securities may be restricted only for the reasons set forth in General Instruction I.A.(1) of Form F-6 (as such instructions may be amended from time to time) under the Securities Act of 1933.

(3) Transfers, Split-ups and Combinations of ADRs; Maintenance of Office and Transfer Books by the Depositary. The Depositary or its agent will keep, at a designated transfer office in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York (the "Transfer Office"), (a) a register (the "ADR Register") for the registration, registration of transfer, combination and split-up of ADRs, and, in the case of Direct Registration ADRs, shall include the Direct Registration System, which at all reasonable times will be open for inspection by Holders and the Company for the purpose of communicating with Holders in the interest of the business of the Company or a matter relating to the Deposit Agreement and (b) facilities for the delivery and receipt of ADRs. The term ADRs includes the Direct Registration System. Title to this ADR (and to the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs evidenced hereby), when properly endorsed or accompanied by proper instruments of transfer, is transferable by delivery with the same effect as in the case of negotiable instruments under the laws of the State of New York; provided that the Depositary and the Company, notwithstanding any notice to the contrary, may treat the person in whose name this ADR is registered on the ADR Register as the absolute owner hereof for all purposes. Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), this ADR is transferable on the ADR Register and may be split into other ADRs or combined with other ADRs into one ADR, evidencing the same number of ADSs evidenced by this ADR, by the Holder hereof or by duly authorized attorney upon surrender of this ADR at the Transfer Office properly endorsed or accompanied by proper instruments of transfer and duly stamped as may be required by applicable law; provided that the Depositary may close the ADR Register at any time or from time to time when deemed expedient by it or requested by the Company. The Depositary, subject to the above terms and conditions, shall, upon surrender of a certificated ADR or ADRs for purposes of transferring the same or effecting a split-up or combination of the same, issue a Direct Registration ADR or, at the request of the Holder hereof, a new certificated ADR or ADRs, and deliver the same to or upon the order of the person entitled thereto without unreasonable delay. At the request of a Holder, the Depositary shall, for the purpose of substituting a certificated ADR with a Direct Registration ADR, or vice versa, execute and deliver a certificated ADR or a Direct Registration ADR, as the case may be, for any authorized number of ADSs requested, evidencing the same aggregate number of ADSs as those evidenced by the certificated ADR or Direct Registration ADR, as the case may be, substituted. At the expense of the Company, the Company shall have the right, during normal business hours and on reasonable advance notice, to inspect transfer and registration records of the Depositary relating to the ADRs and to take copies thereof, and to require the Depositary and any co-registrars to supply copies of such portions of such records as the Company may reasonably request.

(4) Certain Limitations. Prior to the issue, registration, registration of transfer, split-up or combination of any ADR, the delivery of any distribution in respect thereof, or, subject to the last sentence of paragraph (2), the withdrawal of any Deposited Securities, and from time to time in the case of clause (b)(ii) of this paragraph (4), the Company, the Depositary or the Custodian may require: (a) payment with respect thereto of (i) any stock transfer or other tax or other governmental charge, (ii) any stock transfer or registration fees in effect for the registration of transfers of Shares or other Deposited Securities upon any applicable register and (iii) any applicable charges as provided in paragraph (7) of this ADR; (b) the production of proof satisfactory to it of (i) the identity and genuineness of any signature and (ii) such other information, including without limitation, information as to citizenship, residence, exchange control approval, beneficial ownership of any securities, compliance with applicable law, regulations, provisions of or governing Deposited Securities and terms of the Deposit Agreement and this ADR, as it may deem necessary or proper; and (c) compliance with such regulations as the Depositary may establish consistent with the Deposit Agreement. The issuance of ADRs, the acceptance of deposits of Shares, the registration, registration of transfer, split-up or combination of ADRs or, subject to the last sentence of paragraph (2), the withdrawal of Deposited Securities may be suspended, generally or in particular instances, when the ADR Register or any register for Deposited Securities is closed or when any such action is deemed advisable by the Depositary or the Company.

(5) Taxes. If any tax or other governmental charge shall become payable by or on behalf of the Custodian or the Depositary with respect to this ADR, any Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs evidenced hereby or any distribution thereon, such tax or other governmental charge shall be paid by the Holder hereof to the Depositary. The Depositary may refuse to effect any registration, registration of transfer, split-up or combination hereof or, subject to the last sentence of paragraph (2), any withdrawal of such Deposited Securities until such payment is made. The Depositary may also deduct from any distributions on or in respect of Deposited Securities, or may sell by public or private sale for the account of the Holder hereof any part or all of such Deposited Securities (after attempting by reasonable means to notify the Holder hereof prior to such sale), and may apply such deduction or the proceeds of any such sale in payment of such tax or other governmental charge, the Holder hereof remaining liable for any deficiency, and shall reduce the number of ADSs evidenced hereby to reflect any such sales of Shares. The Depositary will forward to the Company in a timely fashion such information from its records as the Company may reasonably request to enable the Company to file necessary reports with governmental authorities or agencies, and either the Company or the Depositary may file any such reports necessary to obtain benefits under any applicable tax treaties for Holders. The Depositary shall cooperate with the Company in the Company's efforts to make and maintain arrangements enabling Holders to receive any tax credits or other benefits (pursuant to treaty or otherwise) relating to dividend payments on the ADSs, and the Depositary shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, provide the Company with such documents as the Company may reasonably request to maintain such arrangements. In connection with any distribution to Holders, the Company will remit to the appropriate governmental authority or agency all amounts (if any) required to be withheld and owing to such authority or agency by the Company; and the Depositary and the Custodian will remit to the appropriate governmental authority or agency all amounts (if any) required to be withheld and owing to such authority or agency by the Depositary or the Custodian. If the Depositary determines that any distribution in property other than cash (including Shares or rights) on Deposited Securities is subject to any tax that the Depositary or the Custodian is obligated to withhold, the Depositary may dispose of all or a portion of such property in such amounts and in such manner as the Depositary deems necessary and practicable to pay such taxes, by public or private sale, and the Depositary shall distribute the net proceeds of any such sale or the balance of any such property after deduction of such taxes to the Holders entitled thereto.

(6) Disclosure of Interests. To the extent that the provisions of or governing any Deposited Securities may require disclosure of or impose limits on beneficial or other ownership of Deposited Securities, other Shares and other securities or may provide for blocking transfer, voting or other rights, Holders and all persons holding ADRs agree to comply with all such disclosure requirements and ownership limitations and to cooperate with the Depository in the Depository's compliance with any Company instructions in respect thereof, and the Depository will use reasonable efforts to comply with such Company instructions.

Article 5 of the Company's Articles of Incorporation provides that the Board of Directors of the Company may register nominees with the right to vote in the share register of the Company to the extent of up to 0.5% of the registered share capital as set forth in the commercial register. Registered Shares held by a nominee that exceed this limit may be registered in the share register if the nominee discloses the names, addresses and the number of Shares of the persons for whose account it holds 0.5% or more of the registered Share capital as set forth in the commercial register. A nominee who does not comply with such disclosure requirements will be registered in the share register of the Company without voting rights with respect to such Shares. Nominees within the meaning of this provision of Article 5 of the Company's Articles of Incorporation are persons who do not explicitly declare in the request for registration to hold the Shares for their own account and with whom the Board of Directors of the Company has entered into a corresponding agreement. The Company has agreed to exempt the Depository and the Custodian and their respective nominees if any (but no individual Holder) from this limitation in respect of Deposited Securities held in connection with the Company's ADR program.

Subject to the third sub-paragraph of Paragraph (13) hereof, regardless of whether a holder of Shares (in the form of Shares and/or ADRs or otherwise) has complied with all disclosure requirements, the Company may in its discretion refuse to recognize the voting rights (and the rights connected therewith) of any Holder of Shares in respect of Shares held, directly or indirectly, singly or in combination or concert with other entities by agreement or otherwise, in excess of 2% of the Company's share capital at any time entered in the Commercial Register of the Canton of Basle City. See paragraph (13) regarding Voting of Deposited Securities.

(7) Charges of Depository. The Depository may charge each person to whom ADRs are issued against deposits of Shares, including deposits in respect of Share Distributions, Rights and Other Distributions (as such terms are defined in paragraph (10)), and each person surrendering ADRs for withdrawal of Deposited Securities, up to U.S. \$5.00 for each 100 ADSs (or portion thereof) evidenced by the ADRs delivered or surrendered. The Depository may sell (by public or private sale) sufficient securities and property received in respect of Share Distributions, Rights and Other Distributions prior to such deposit to pay such charge. The Company will pay all other charges and expenses of the Depository and any agent of the Depository (except the Custodian) pursuant to agreements from time to time between the Company and the Depository, except (i) stock transfer or other taxes and other governmental charges (which are payable by Holders or persons depositing Shares), (ii) cable, telex and facsimile transmission and delivery charges incurred at the request of persons depositing, or Holders delivering Shares, ADRs or Deposited Securities (which are payable by such persons or Holders), (iii) transfer or registration fees for the registration of transfer of Deposited Securities on any applicable register in connection with the deposit or withdrawal of Deposited Securities (which are payable by persons depositing Shares or Holders withdrawing Deposited Securities; there are no such fees in respect of the Shares as of the date of the Deposit Agreement) and (iv) expenses of the Depository in connection with the conversion of foreign currency into U.S. dollars (which are paid out of such foreign currency). These charges may be changed in the manner indicated in paragraph (17).

(8) Available Information. The Deposit Agreement, the provisions of or governing Deposited Securities and any written communications from the Company, which are both received by the Custodian or its nominee as a holder of Deposited Securities and made generally available to the holders of Deposited Securities, are available for inspection by Holders at the offices of the Depositary and the Custodian and at the Transfer Office. The Depositary will mail copies of such communications (or English translations or summaries thereof) to Holders when furnished by the Company. The Company is subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and accordingly files certain reports with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). Such reports and other information may be inspected and copied at public reference facilities maintained by the Commission located at the date hereof at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549.

(9) Execution. This ADR shall not be valid for any purpose unless executed by the Depositary by the manual or facsimile signature of a duly authorized officer of the Depositary.

Dated: JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as Depositary

By
Authorized Officer

The Transfer Office is currently located at 4 New York Plaza, New York, New York 10004

[FORM OF REVERSE OF ADR]

(10) Distributions on Deposited Securities. Subject to paragraphs (4), (5) and (7), the Depositary will distribute as promptly as practicable by mail, to the extent distribution by mail is practicable, to each Holder entitled thereto on the record date set by the Depositary therefor at such Holder's address shown on the ADR Register, in proportion to the number of Deposited Securities (on which the following distributions on Deposited Securities are received by the Custodian) represented by ADSs evidenced by such Holder's ADRs: (a) Cash: Any U.S. dollars available to the Depositary resulting from a cash dividend or other cash distribution or the net proceeds of sales of any other distribution or portion thereof authorized in this paragraph (10) ("Cash"), on an averaged or other reasonably practicable basis, subject to (i) appropriate adjustments for taxes withheld, (ii) such distribution being impermissible pursuant to applicable law with respect to certain Holders, and (iii) deduction of the Depositary's expenses in (1) converting any foreign currency to U.S. dollars by sale or in such other manner as the Depositary may determine to the extent that it determines that such conversion may be made on a reasonable basis, (2) transferring foreign currency or U.S. dollars to the United States by such means as the Depositary may determine to the extent that it determines that such transfer may be made on a reasonable basis, (3) obtaining any approval or license of any governmental authority required for such conversion or transfer, which is obtainable at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable time and (4) making any sale by public or private means in any commercially reasonable manner. (b) Shares. (i) Additional ADRs evidencing whole ADSs representing any Shares available to the Depositary resulting from a dividend or free distribution on Deposited Securities consisting of Shares (a "Share Distribution") and (ii) U.S. dollars available to it resulting from the net proceeds of sales of Shares received in a Share Distribution, which Shares would give rise to fractional ADSs if additional ADRs were issued therefor, as in the case of Cash. (c) Rights. (i) Warrants or other instruments in the discretion of the Depositary after consultation with the Company if practicable representing rights to acquire additional ADRs in respect of any rights to subscribe for additional Shares or rights of any nature available to the Depositary as a result of a distribution on Deposited Securities ("Rights"), to the extent that the Company timely furnishes to the Depositary evidence satisfactory to the Depositary that the Depositary may lawfully distribute the same (the Company has no obligation to so furnish such evidence), or (ii) to the extent the Company does not so furnish such evidence and sales of Rights are practicable, any U.S. dollars available to the Depositary from the net proceeds of sales of Rights as in the case of Cash, or (iii) to the extent the Company does not so furnish such evidence and such sales cannot practicably be accomplished by reason of the nontransferability of the Rights, limited markets therefor, their short duration or otherwise, nothing (and any Rights may lapse). (d) Other Distributions. (i) Securities or property available to the Depositary resulting from any distribution on Deposited Securities other than Cash, Share Distributions and Rights ("Other Distributions"), by any means that the Depositary may deem equitable and practicable, or (ii) to the extent the Depositary deems distribution of such securities or property not to be equitable and practicable, any U.S. dollars available to the Depositary from the net proceeds of sales of Other Distributions as in the case of Cash. The Depositary shall endeavor to conduct any sales hereunder in a commercially reasonable manner. Such U.S. dollars available will be distributed by checks drawn on a bank in the United States for whole dollars and cents (any fractional cents being withheld without liability for interest and dealt with by the Depositary in accordance with its then current procedures). Notwithstanding the foregoing, no distribution to Holders pursuant to this paragraph (10) shall be unreasonably delayed by any action of the Depositary or its agents.

(11) Conversion of Foreign Currency. Whenever the Depositary or the Custodian shall receive foreign currency, as a cash dividend or other distribution or as the net proceeds from the sale of securities, property or rights, which, in the judgment of the Depositary can then be converted on a reasonable basis into U.S. dollars which can, at the time of receipt thereof, be transferred to the United States, the Depositary shall, as promptly as practicable, convert or cause to be converted, by sale or in any other manner that it may determine, such foreign currency into U.S. dollars and shall transfer the resulting U.S. dollars (net of its charges and expenses in effecting such conversion) to the United States. Such U.S. dollars shall be distributed as promptly as practicable to the Holders entitled thereto or, if the Depositary shall have distributed any warrants or other instruments that entitle the holders thereof to such U.S. dollars, then to the holders of such warrants or instruments, as applicable, upon surrender thereof for cancellation. Such distribution may be made upon an averaged or other practicable basis without regard to any distinctions among Holders on account of exchange restrictions or otherwise. If such conversion or distribution can be effected only with the approval or license of any government or agency thereof, the Depositary shall, unless prohibited pursuant to applicable law or otherwise impracticable in the reasonable opinion of the Depositary after consultation with the Company if practicable, file such application for approval or license, if any; provided, however that the Depositary shall be entitled to rely upon Swiss local counsel in such matters, which counsel shall be instructed to act as promptly as possible.. The Company shall not be obliged to make any such filing on behalf of the Depositary. If at any time the Depositary shall determine that in its judgment any foreign currency received by the Depositary is not convertible on a reasonable basis into U.S. dollars transferable to the United States, or if any approval or license of any governmental authority or agency thereof that is required for such conversion is denied or in the opinion of the Depositary is not obtainable at a reasonable cost or within a reasonable period, the Depositary may, subject to applicable laws and regulations, either distribute the foreign currency (or an appropriate document evidencing the right to receive such foreign currency) to, or hold such foreign currency (without liability for interest thereon) for the respective accounts of, the Holders entitled to receive the same; provided, however, that if requested in writing by a Holder entitled thereto, the Depositary may, in its discretion, distribute the foreign currency, as promptly as practicable. If any such conversion of foreign currency, in whole or in part, can be effected for distribution to some but not all of the Holders entitled thereto, the Depositary shall make such conversion and distribution in U.S. dollars to the extent permissible to the Holders entitled thereto and may either so distribute or hold such balance (without liability for interest thereon) for the respective accounts of, the Holders entitled thereto for whom such conversion and distribution is not practicable; provided, however, that if requested in writing by a Holder entitled thereto, the Depositary may, in its discretion, distribute the foreign currency, as promptly as practicable.

(12) Record Dates. The Depositary may, after consultation with the Company, if practicable, fix a record date (which shall be as near as practicable to any corresponding record date set by the Company) for the determination of the Holders who shall be entitled to receive any distribution on or in respect of Deposited Securities, to give instructions for the exercise of any voting rights, to receive any notice or to act in respect of other matters and only such Holders shall be so entitled.

(13) Voting of Deposited Securities. As soon as practicable after receipt from the Company of notice of any meeting or solicitation of consents or proxies of holders of Shares or other Deposited Securities, the Depositary shall mail to Holders a notice stating (a) such information as is contained in such notice and any solicitation materials (or a summary thereof), (b) that each Holder on the record date set by the Depositary therefor will be entitled, subject to applicable law and the provisions of or governing Deposited Securities (including, without limitation, the provisions of the Company's Articles of Incorporation as in effect from time to time and resolutions and regulations of the Company's Board of Directors adopted pursuant to such Articles of Incorporation, which provisions, and, if applicable, resolutions and regulations shall be summarized in a form provided by the Company) to instruct the Depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights, if any, pertaining to the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs evidenced by such Holder's ADRs and (c) the manner in which such instructions may be given, including instructions to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by the Company. Upon receipt of instructions of a Holder on such record date in the manner and on or before the date established by the Depositary for such purpose, the Depositary shall endeavor insofar as practicable and permitted under the provisions of or governing Deposited Securities to vote or cause to be voted (or to grant a discretionary proxy to a person designated by the Company) the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs evidenced by such Holder's ADRs in accordance with such instructions. The Depositary will not itself exercise any voting discretion in respect of any Deposited Securities. To the extent such instructions are not so received by the Depositary from any Holder, the Depositary shall deem such Holder to have so instructed the Depositary to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by the Company and the Depositary shall endeavor insofar as practicable and permitted under the provisions of or governing Deposited Securities to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by the Company to vote the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs evidenced by such Holder's ADRs as to which such instructions are so given, provided that no such instruction shall be deemed given and no discretionary proxy shall be given with respect to any matter as to which the Company informs the Depositary (and the Company agrees to provide such information promptly in writing) that the Company does not wish such proxy given.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Depositary shall not be obligated to give any such deemed instruction unless and until the Depositary has been provided with an opinion, which may be given at the time of entering into the Deposit Agreement, of counsel to the Company (which may be internal counsel), in form and substance satisfactory to the Depositary, to the effect that (i) the granting of such discretionary proxy does not subject the Depositary to any reporting obligations in Switzerland, (ii) the granting of such proxy will not result in a violation of Swiss law, rule, regulation or permit and (iii) the voting arrangement and proxy as contemplated herein will be given effect under Swiss law. If after the date such opinion is delivered to the Depositary the Company is advised by counsel that there has occurred a change in Swiss law such that the foregoing opinion could no longer be rendered favorably in whole or in part, the Company shall promptly notify the Depositary of such change and the Depositary shall thereafter have no obligation to give any such discretionary proxy. The Company agrees to direct its counsel to inform it of any such changes in Swiss law.

Pursuant to the Company's Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Directors of the Company may refuse to recognize the voting rights (and the rights connected therewith) of any holder of Shares (in the form of Shares and/or ADRs or otherwise) in respect of Shares held, directly or indirectly, singly or in combination or concert with other entities by agreement or otherwise, in excess of 2% of the Company's share capital at any time entered in the Commercial Register of the Canton of Basle City. The holdings of affiliated legal entities, including, but not limited to corporations and partnerships, are aggregated for the purposes of this limitation. The Company has agreed to exempt the Depository and the Custodian and their respective nominees if any (but no individual Holder) from this limitation in respect of Deposited Securities held in connection with the Company's ADR program up to a limit of 15% of the Company's share capital at any time entered in the Commercial Register of the Canton of Basle City. The Depository will inform the Company if the Depository reaches 14.5% of the Company's share capital at any time entered in such Commercial Register, at which time the Company will review and may increase the 15% limitation. In the event this 15% limitation is not increased, the Company may refuse to recognize the voting rights of any Holder regardless of the Holder's individual percentage share ownership or whether the Holder has complied with any disclosure requirements. This limitation shall not apply to any rights other than voting (and the rights connected therewith), such as rights relating to dividends or transfer.

In addition, the Company has the right not to recognize votes of Deposited Securities or other Company Shares held by (a) any Holder in excess of the two per cent limitation and/or (b) any Holder or other person holding an interest in an ADR who has not complied with the disclosure obligations of paragraph (6) hereof. The Company reserves the right to instruct Holders to deliver their ADRs for cancellation and withdrawal of the Deposited Securities so as to permit the Company to re-register such withdrawn Deposited Securities as Shares without voting rights. The Company may also refuse to allow such Holder to redeposit such Shares into the ADR facility.

The Shares are registered shares the transfer of which (for so long as they are book-entry shares) is effected by use of the share registration form and by a corresponding entry in the books of a bank or depository institution following an assignment in writing by the selling shareholder and notification of such assignment to the Company. In the event that the Shares will be printed, the transfer is effected by delivery of the endorsed share certificate. The transfer of Shares further requires that the name of the purchaser be registered in the Share Register of the Company. Failing such registration, the purchaser of such Shares underlying the ADSs may not vote at general meetings of the Company. All voting rights with respect to the Shares are subject to Swiss law.

(14) Changes Affecting Deposited Securities. Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), the Depositary may, in its discretion, and shall if the Company shall so request, amend this ADR or distribute additional or amended ADRs (with or without calling this ADR for exchange) or cash, securities or property on the record date set by the Depositary therefor to reflect any change in par value, split-up, consolidation, cancellation or other reclassification of Deposited Securities, any Share Distribution or Other Distribution not distributed to Holders or any cash, securities or property available to the Depositary in respect of Deposited Securities from (and the Depositary is hereby authorized to surrender any Deposited Securities to any person and to sell by public or private sale any property received in connection with) any recapitalization, reorganization, merger, consolidation, liquidation, receivership, bankruptcy or sale of all or substantially all the assets of the Company, and to the extent the Depositary does not so amend this ADR or make a distribution to Holders to reflect any of the foregoing, or the net proceeds thereof, whatever cash, securities or property results from any of the foregoing shall constitute Deposited Securities and each ADS evidenced by this ADR shall automatically represent its pro rata interest in the Deposited Securities as then constituted.

(15) Exoneration. The Depositary, the Company, their respective directors, employees, officers, agents or affiliates and each of them shall: (a) incur no liability (i) if any present or future law, regulation, order, decree, moratorium, fiat, the provisions of or governing any Deposited Securities and the Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation of the Company, act of God, war or other circumstance beyond its control shall prevent, delay or subject to any civil or criminal penalty or restraint or any act which the Deposit Agreement or this ADR provides shall be done or performed by it, or (ii) by reason of any exercise or failure to exercise any discretion given it in the Deposit Agreement, this ADR or the Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation of the Company; (b) assume no liability except to perform its obligations to the extent they are specifically set forth in this ADR and the Deposit Agreement without gross negligence or bad faith; (c) be under no obligation to appear in, prosecute or defend any action, suit or other proceeding in respect of any Deposited Securities or this ADR; or (d) not be liable for any action or inaction by it in reliance upon the advice of or information from legal counsel, accountants, any person presenting Shares for deposit, any Holder, or any other person believed by it to be competent to give such advice or information. The Depositary, its agents and the Company may rely and shall be protected in acting upon any written notice, request, direction or other document believed by them to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties. The Depositary and its agents will not be responsible for any failure to carry out any instructions to vote any of the Deposited Securities, for the manner in which any such vote is cast or for the effect of any such vote. The Depositary and its agents may own and deal in any class of securities of the Company and its affiliates and in ADRs. The Company has agreed to indemnify the Depositary and its agents under certain circumstances and the Depositary and its agents have agreed to indemnify the Company under certain circumstances. No disclaimer of liability under the Securities Act of 1933 is intended by any provision hereof.

(16) Resignation and Removal of Depositary; the Custodian. The Depositary may resign as Depositary by written notice of its election to do so delivered to the Company, or be removed as Depositary by the Company by written notice of such removal delivered to the Depositary; such resignation or removal shall take effect upon the appointment of and acceptance by a successor depositary. The Depositary may, after consultation with the Company if practicable, appoint substitute or additional Custodians and the term "Custodian" refers to each Custodian or all Custodians as the context requires.

(17) Amendment. Subject to the last sentence of paragraph (2), the ADRs and the Deposit Agreement may be amended by the Company and the Depositary, provided that any amendment that imposes or increases any fees or charges (other than stock transfer or other taxes and other governmental charges, transfer or registration fees, cable, telex or facsimile transmission costs, delivery costs or other such expenses), or that shall otherwise prejudice any substantial existing right of Holders, shall become effective 30 days after notice of such amendment shall have been given to the Holders. Every Holder of an ADR at the time any amendment to the Deposit Agreement so becomes effective shall be deemed, by continuing to hold such ADR, to consent and agree to such amendment and to be bound by the Deposit Agreement as amended thereby. In no event shall any amendment impair the right of the Holder of any ADR to surrender such ADR and receive the Deposited Securities represented thereby, except in order to comply with mandatory provisions of applicable law. By holding this ADR or an interest therein, the parties hereto, including any Holder hereof and beneficial owner herein agree that any amendments or supplements which (i) are reasonably necessary (as agreed by the Company and the Depositary) in order for (a) the ADSs to be registered on Form F-6 under the Securities Act of 1933 or (b) the ADSs or Shares to be traded solely in electronic book-entry form and (ii) do not in either such case impose or increase any fees or charges to be borne by Holders, shall be deemed not to prejudice any substantial rights of Holders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any governmental body should adopt new laws, rules or regulations which would require amendment or supplement of the Deposit Agreement or the form of ADR to ensure compliance therewith, the Company and the Depositary may amend or supplement the Deposit Agreement and the ADR at any time in accordance with such changed rules. Such amendment or supplement to the Deposit Agreement in such circumstances may become effective before a notice of such amendment or supplement is given to Holders or within any other period of time as required for compliance.

(18) Termination. The Depositary may, and shall at the written direction of the Company, terminate the Deposit Agreement and this ADR by mailing notice of such termination to the Holders at least 30 days prior to the date fixed in such notice for such termination. After the date so fixed for termination, the Depositary and its agents will perform no further acts under the Deposit Agreement and this ADR, except to receive and hold (or sell) distributions on Deposited Securities and deliver Deposited Securities being withdrawn. As soon as practicable after the expiration of six months from the date so fixed for termination, the Depositary shall sell the Deposited Securities and shall thereafter (as long as it may lawfully do so) hold in a segregated account the net proceeds of such sales, together with any other cash then held by it under the Deposit Agreement, without liability for interest, in trust for the pro rata benefit of the Holders of ADRs not theretofore surrendered. After making such sale, the Depositary shall be discharged from all obligations in respect of the Deposit Agreement and this ADR, except for its obligations to the Company under Section 16 of the Deposit Agreement and to account for such net proceeds and other cash. After the date so fixed for termination, the Company shall be discharged from all obligations under the Deposit Agreement except for its obligations to the Depositary and its agents.

