

SONOCO PRODUCTS CO  
Form 4  
December 29, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Saunders Barry L

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
ONE NORTH SECOND STREET  
(Street)

HARTSVILLE, SC 29550

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
SONOCO PRODUCTS CO [SON]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/23/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
VP, Corp Controller & CAO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code V Amount (D) Price   |  |                                   |

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|----------|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|----------|

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| (Instr. 3) | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A)<br>or Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | (Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | Code | V | (A)    | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares | (Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|--|-------------------------|------|---|--------|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|            |                                    |                  |            |  |                         |      |   |        |     |                     |                    |                 |                                     |                         |
|            | Phantom<br>Stock<br>Units          | (1)              | 12/23/2008 |  |                         | A    |   | 36.541 |     | (2)                 | (2)                | Common<br>Stock | 36.541                              | \$                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                      | Relationships |           |                           |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                   | Other |
| Saunders Barry L<br>ONE NORTH SECOND STREET<br>HARTSVILLE, SC 29550 |               |           | VP, Corp Controller & CAO |       |

## Signatures

By: George S. Hartley - Power of Attorney For: Barry L. Saunders

12/29/2008

Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Each share of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of Sonoco Products Company common stock.

(2) The reported phantom stock units were acquired under Sonoco Products Company's excess benefit plan and will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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