

Paras Madho  
Manager  
Securities Operations

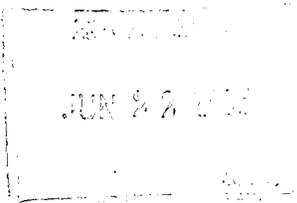
New York Stock Exchange, Inc.  
20 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10005

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CERTNYS

NYSE

June 22, 2005

Mr. Brian Johnson  
Branch Chief  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Branch of Filer Support 2  
Room 2531 - STOP 1004  
100 F Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The New York Stock Exchange certifies approval for listing and registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, New EXM Inc. (Name to be changed to ASHLAND INC.), Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share and Preferred Stock Purchase Rights and requests immediate acceleration of registration. Adequate distribution assured. Form 8-A received on June 22, 2005. Tentative listing date - Not yet determined.

Sincerely,

PROCESSED  
JUN 23 2005  
THOMSON  
FINANCIAL