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

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**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**  
**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of**  
**the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 22, 2008**

**The Hillman Companies, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**001-13293**  
(Commission File No.)

**23-2874736**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(513) 851-4900**

**Not Applicable**  
(Former name or former address,  
if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 8.01 Other Events**

On December 22, 2008, The Hillman Companies, Inc. issued a press release announcing that it has elected to defer distribution payments on its Trust Preferred Securities for a period not to exceed 6 months beginning with the January 2009 distribution in order to maintain cash and maintain its compliance with its financial covenants in its Senior Credit and Subordinated Debt Agreements. The text of the press release is included as an exhibit to this Form 8-K.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

- (a) Not Applicable.
- (b) Not Applicable.
- (c) Not Applicable.
- (d) *Exhibits*

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
99.1	Press release dated December 22, 2008.

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# SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 22, 2008

THE HILLMAN COMPANIES, INC.

/s/ James P. Waters

James P. Waters

Chief Financial Officer

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## EXHIBIT LIST

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
99.1	Press release dated December 22, 2008.

**Hillman Group Capital Trust to Temporarily Defer Payment of Cash Distributions on Trust Preferred Securities**

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ — The Hillman Companies, Inc. (the “Company” or “Hillman”), — Max W. Hillman, Chief Executive Officer of The Hillman Companies, Inc. announced today that, in order to retain capital, the Company’s Board of Directors has determined to temporarily defer the payment of cash distributions to holders of Trust Preferred Securities (Amex: HLM\_P) beginning with the January 2009 distribution.

The Company’s decision to defer the payment of distributions to holders of Trust Preferred Securities is designed to ensure that the Company preserve cash and maintain its compliance with the financial covenants contained in its Senior Credit and Subordinated Debt Agreements. Pursuant to the Indenture that governs the Trust Preferred Securities, the Company is able to defer distribution payments to holders of the Trust Preferred Securities for a period that cannot exceed 60 months (the “Deferral Period”). During the Deferral Period, the Company is required to accrue the full amount of all distributions payable, and such deferred distributions will be immediately payable by the Company at the end of the Deferral Period. The Company anticipates that it will defer distribution payments for a period not to exceed 6 months. As a result, the Company will accrue an aggregate of \$.241667 per share which represents the amount that would otherwise be paid in the January 2009 distribution.

Hillman sells to hardware stores, home centers, pet suppliers, mass merchants, and other retail outlets principally in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and South America. Their product line includes thousands of small parts such as fasteners and related hardware items, keys, key duplication systems, and identification items, such as tags, letters, numbers and signs. Services offered include design and installation of merchandising systems and maintenance of appropriate in-store inventory levels.

For more information on the Company, please visit our website at <http://www.hillmangroup.com> or call Investor Relations at (513) 851-4900, ext. 2084.