

MARKEL STEVEN A
Form 4
January 25, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
MARKEL STEVEN A

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O MARKEL CORPORATION, 4521 HIGHWOODS PKWY

(Street)

GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
MARKEL CORP [MKL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/07/2005

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)
Vice Chairman

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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V Amount (A) or (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/07/2005 | | G | V 675 D \$ 0 | 268,556.894 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 1,840.11 | I | 401(K) Plan (2) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 4,375 | I | By Trust (3) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 30,000 | I | By Trust (4) |

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

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(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 (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Beneficially (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MARKEL STEVEN A C/O MARKEL CORPORATION 4521 HIGHWOODS PKWY GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060 | X | | Vice Chairman | |

Signatures

Linda S. Rotz, Attorney-in-fact for Steven A. Markel
 01/25/2006
 __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) End of period holdings also reflect change in form of beneficial ownership by reason of contribution by Mr. Markel of 30,000 shares to a Grantor Retained Annuity Trust.
- (2) Holdings under the Markel Corporation 401(K) Plan are reported in units. The information reported herein is based on a plan statement dated as of December 30, 2005 and utilizes the closing stock price on that date of \$317.05. As of 12/30/2005, a unit under the Plan represented one share of Common Stock.
- (3) Mr. Markel is trustee and retains a partial interest in the trust. The amount reported reflects all the securities held by the trust but Mr. Markel disclaims beneficial ownership except with respect to his interest in the trust.
- (4) Mr. Markel is a trustee and partial beneficiary of a Grantor Retained Annuity Trust.

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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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