

AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL CORP

Form 4

December 10, 2008

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
 Ben-Atav Zahi

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
 Symbol
 AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL
 CORP [AMPL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
 Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 12/08/2008

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
☒ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
 VP-Accounting & Controller

C/O AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL
 CORPORATION, 10 ABBA EVEN
 ST.

(Street)

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

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

HERZLIYA, ISRAEL, L3 46733

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			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)

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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. Pri Deriv Secur (Instr.
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 1.17	12/08/2008		A	40,000	(1) 12/07/2018	Class A 40,000 Stock	\$

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
Ben-Atav Zahi C/O AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL CORPORATION 10 ABBA EVEN ST. HERZLIYA, ISRAEL, L3 46733	VP-Accounting & Controller

Signatures

/s/ Zahi
Ben-Atav 12/10/2008

__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) The options vest in equal installments of 2,500 shares beginning on March 8, 2009 and each three month anniversary thereafter.

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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