



MARKET RELEASE

22 October 2004

National Hire Group Limited

TRADING HALT

The securities of National Hire Group Limited (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Tuesday, 26 October 2004 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: NHR
NHRG

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Hajzuk', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Richard Hajzuk
Companies Adviser

612 9666 3701

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22 October 2004

**The Manager, Companies
Australian Stock Exchange
20 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000**

Attention: Mr Richard Hajzuk

Dear Sir

National Hire Group Limited - Request for a Trading Halt

National Hire Group Limited requests a halt in the trading in its securities to take effect from the opening of trading on Friday 22 October. The trading halt is requested because the company together with its financial and legal advisors is currently undertaking negotiations with respect to two potential acquisitions together with an associated capital raising which will be material to the company. We expect the trading halt may need to be in place for two trading days.

I should also foreshadow that these negotiations may not be completed by the time when the market opens for trading on Tuesday 26 October. Accordingly, the company may seek a voluntary suspension of the trading in its securities for a further period of no more than 5 days beginning on Tuesday 26 October. Any further request in relation to this voluntary suspension would be made to the Exchange on the afternoon of 25 October or the morning of 26 October.

The company is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.

If you have any queries concerning the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9582 7934.

Yours faithfully


**RB Harman
Secretary**