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ALLEGHANY CORP /DE  
Form 8-K  
August 20, 2004

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): August 19, 2004

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ALLEGHANY CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|  |                                      |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Delaware   | 1-9371                               | 51-0283071                                    |
| -----<br>(State or other jurisdiction<br>of incorporation) | -----<br>(Commission<br>File Number) | -----<br>(IRS Employer<br>Identification No.) |

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 375 Park Avenue, Suite 3201<br>New York, New York | 10152               |
| -----<br>(Address of principal executive offices) | -----<br>(Zip Code) |

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (212) 752-1356  
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Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

On August 19, 2004, Alleghany Corporation issued the press release attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description   |
|----------------|---|
| -----          | -----   |
| 99.1           | Press Release of Alleghany Corporation, dated August 19, 2004 |

Signature

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 thereunto duly authorized.

ALLEGHANY CORPORATION

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/s/ Peter R. Sismondo  
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By: Peter R. Sismondo  
Vice President,  
Controller,  
Treasurer and Assistant  
Secretary

Date: August 20, 2004

Index to Exhibits

Exhibit Number  
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99.1

Exhibit Description  
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Press Release of Alleghany Corporation, dated  
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