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Properties and Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment are valued at historical costs. Depreciation is recognized over the estimated useful lives using primarily the straight-line method for financial reporting purposes and accelerated depreciation methods for federal income tax purposes. Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment and where appropriate are adjusted to fair market value less cost to sell. Useful lives for buildings and building improvements, machinery and equipment, tooling, and office equipment, furniture and fixtures principally range from twenty to thirty years, five to ten years, three to five years and three to ten years, respectively.

Revenue Recognition

Sales are recognized when products are shipped and risk of loss has transferred to the customer. We accrue for warranty costs, sales returns and other allowances, based on experience and other relevant factors, when sales are recognized. Adjustments are made as new information becomes available. Shipping and handling fees billed to customers are included in sales and the costs of shipping and handling are included in cost of sales.

Income Taxes

Current tax liabilities and assets are recognized for the estimated taxes payable or refundable on the tax returns for the current year. Deferred tax balances reflect the impact of temporary differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities and their tax bases. Amounts are stated at enacted tax rates expected to be in effect when taxes are actually paid or recovered. Deferred tax assets are reduced, if necessary, by the amount of any tax benefits not expected to be realized.

The "flow-through" method of accounting is used for investment tax credits, except for investment tax credits arising from leveraged leases and certain direct financing leases for which the deferred method is used for financial statement purposes.

Financial Instruments

The reported fair values of financial instruments are based on a variety of factors. Where available, fair values represent quoted market prices for identical or comparable instruments. Where quoted market prices are not available, fair values are estimated based on assumptions concerning the amount and timing of estimated future cash flows and assumed discount rates reflecting varying degrees of credit risk. Fair values may not represent actual values of the financial instruments that could be realized as of the balance sheet date or that will be realized in the future.

Derivative Financial Instruments

We enter into forward exchange contracts to hedge our exposure to the effects of currency fluctuations on a portion of our projected sales and purchase commitments. The changes in the fair value of these contracts are recorded in cost of sales and are generally offset by exchange gains or losses on the underlying exposures. We also use interest rate swaps to manage exposure to fluctuations in interest rates and to balance the mix of our fixed and floating rate debt. We do not use derivatives for trading or speculative purposes.