

(b) It may be served with process in South Carolina in any proceeding: (i) to enforce any obligation of a participating or acquired domestic corporation or any participating foreign corporation previously subject to suit in South Carolina and (ii) to enforce the right of dissenting shareholders of any participating domestic corporation against the surviving or new or acquired corporation.

(c) To irrevocably appoint the Secretary of State of South Carolina as its agent to accept service of process in any such aforementioned proceeding, and the post office address to which the Secretary of State of South Carolina shall mail a copy of any process in any such proceeding is:

Piedmont Welding Supply Company
Post Office Box 33871
4236 Statesville Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28233

11. These Articles of Merger, and the Plan incorporated herein by reference, shall be effective, in accordance with ARTICLE II of said Plan at 5:00 p.m. on July 6, 1982, pursuant to Section 55-4(b) of the North Carolina Business Corporation Act and Section 33-1-60(b) of the South Carolina Business Corporation Act, and the merger therein contemplated shall be deemed to be completed and consummated at said time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Articles of Merger have been signed by the President and Secretary of PIEDMONT WELDING SUPPLY COMPANY and by the President and Secretary of THE NUT & BOLT HOUSE, INC.,

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