



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Compass Minerals International, Inc. Increases Quarterly Dividend 33 Percent**

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (May 4, 2004) – The board of directors of Compass Minerals International, Inc. (NYSE: CMP) has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.25 per share on its outstanding common stock, a 33-percent increase over the previous dividend. The dividend is payable on June 15, 2004 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on June 1, 2004.

“We are pleased that our robust top-line growth and cost-reduction programs have generated a sustainable, increased level of operating cash flow, allowing us to continue to reduce debt while providing a greater return to our shareholders,” said Michael E. Ducey, president and CEO of Compass Minerals International, Inc. “We continue to focus on building the intrinsic value of Compass Minerals and, by increasing our annual cash dividend, we are supporting that commitment to shareholders.”

#### **About Compass Minerals International**

Based in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Compass is the second-leading salt producer in North America and the largest in the United Kingdom. The company operates nine production facilities, including the largest rock salt mine in the world in Goderich, Ontario. The company’s product lines include salt for highway deicing, consumer deicing, water conditioning, consumer and industrial food preparation, agriculture and industrial applications. In addition, Compass is North America’s leading producer of sulfate of potash, which is used in the production of specialty fertilizers for high-value crops and turf.

*This press release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on the Company's current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially. The differences could be caused by a number of factors including those factors identified in Compass Minerals International's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission file no. 1-31921). The Company will not update any forward-looking statements made in this press release to reflect future events or developments.*

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