NEWS RELEASE

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Compass Minerals International, Inc. Announces Dividend

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (February 10, 2004) – The Board of Directors of Compass Minerals International, Inc. (NYSE: CMP) has declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.1875 per share on its outstanding common stock. The dividend is payable on March 15, 2004 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 1, 2004.

About Compass Minerals

Based in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Compass is the largest producer of highway deicing salt in North America and the United Kingdom and operates the largest rock salt mines in these regions. The company is also the third largest producer of general trade salt in North America and the second largest in the United Kingdom, serving major retailers, agricultural cooperatives and food producers. In addition, Compass is the largest producer of sulfate of potash in North America, which is used in the production of specialty fertilizers.

Certain statements in 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 from those set forth in the statements. There can be no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Factors that could cause the Company's results to differ materially from current expectations include: general economic and business conditions, industry trends, weather, raw material costs and availability, changes in demand for the Company's products, actions of the Company's competitors and the additional factors and risks contained in the Company's registration statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 11, 2003.

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