

THORATEC CORP  
Form 4  
February 26, 2009

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Cohen Lawrence

(Last) (First) (Middle)

6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE

(Street)

PLEASANTON, CA 94588

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
THORATEC CORP [THOR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/24/2009

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Division President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Amount or Price   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/24/2009                           |  | F                              | D   | 1,188 (1) \$ 25.08  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock (3)                | 02/25/2009                           |  | A                              | A   | 5,200 \$ 0 (2)  | D  |                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)  | \$ 23.93   | 02/25/2009                           |  | A                              | 17,729  | 02/25/2010 <sup>(4)</sup> 02/25/2019                     | Common Stock                                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                  | Relationships |           |                    |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer            | Other |
| Cohen Lawrence<br>6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE<br>PLEASANTON, CA 94588 |               |           | Division President |       |

## Signatures

/s/David A. Lehman,  
Attorney-In-Fact

02/26/2009

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Shares tendered in payment of tax withholding obligations.
- (2) Options and restricted stock units were granted pursuant to the Company's equity incentive plan with no payment received for either.
- (3) Represents restricted stock units. Each restricted stock unit represents a right to receive one share of Thoratec Corporation common stock upon vesting. The restricted stock units vest in four equal annual installments commencing one year after the grant date.
- (4) Options vest in four equal annual installments commencing one year after the grant date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.