



News Briefing

AGCS North America upgraded to A+ by A.M. Best

December 18th 2008



A.M. Best, the worldwide insurance rating agency, today announced that it has upgraded Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty North America, increasing its Financial Strength Rating to A+ (Superior).



This rating upgrade applies to Allianz Global Risks US Insurance Co. and Allianz Underwriters Insurance Company, Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty's (AGCS) dedicated carriers in North America. The companies' Issuer Credit Ratings were also upgraded to 'aa'.

A.M. Best had already upgraded the Financial Strength Ratings on AGCS North America's sister companies - AGCS AG and AGCS France - to A+ in September 2008, so this announcement confirms that all three of AGCS's primary global operating companies have now been upgraded to the same 'Superior' A.M. Best rating. The outlook on all ratings is stable.

A.M. Best took the decision to upgrade AGCS North America based on a comprehensive analysis of our business, in which they recognized the strength of our global business model, our market position and our strong capitalization. In their announcement, they identified a number of key rating factors which influenced the upgrade of the AGCS North America business, including:

- 'A.M. Best's view that Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty North America is an integral part of its ultimate parent company, Allianz Societas Europaea's (Allianz SE) strategy.'
- 'Other rating factors include Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty North America's excellent risk-adjusted capitalization, solid business franchise, improved underwriting and operating performance in recent years and anticipated earnings diversification through its expanding aviation portfolio.'

A.M. Best – explanation of Financial Strength Ratings¹

A.M. Best describe their Financial Strength Ratings as 'an independent opinion of an insurer's financial strength and ability to meet its ongoing insurance policy and contract obligations. The rating is based on a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of a company's balance sheet strength, operating performance and profile.'

A full copy of the A.M. Best press release can be found at the following link: www.ambest.com/pc

For further information, please contact your local Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty manager, or contact John F. White, Vice President - Market Management & Communication. Email: jwhite@aig-allianz.com; tel: 312.224.3312

Standard & Poor's AGCS Rating

Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty North America also holds an 'AA' (Very Strong) FSR from Standard & Poor's (S&P), which was re-confirmed by S&P in July 2008, with a 'stable' outlook.

S&P commented on AGCS's position as 'a leading player in the industrial and specialty lines market', with 'strong capitalisation' and 'sustainable competitive strengths' such as 'a premier brand, a truly global footing, strong underwriting and claims capabilities, and the ability to offer significant capacity.'

¹ Source: A.M. Best – 'Guide to Best's Financial Strength Ratings.'