



# NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, INC., OLDWICK, NJ • A.M. BEST EUROPE, LTD., LONDON  
A.M. BEST ASIA-PACIFIC, LTD., HONG KONG

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 17, 2010**

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**A.M. Best Affirms Ratings of W. R. Berkley Corporation and Its Subsidiaries**

**Ratings Supplement**

The FSRs of A+ (Superior) and ICRs of “aa-” have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **Berkley Insurance Group** and its following members

- **Berkley Insurance Company**
- **Gemini Insurance Company**
- **Key Risk Insurance Company**
- **Midwest Employers Casualty Company**
- **Preferred Employers Insurance Company**
- **Queen’s Island Insurance Company Ltd**
- **Riverport Insurance Company**
- **StarNet Insurance Company**

The FSR of A+ (Superior) and ICRs of “aa-” have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **Berkley Regional Group** and its following members:

- **American Mining Insurance Company**
- **Berkley National Insurance Company**
- **Berkley Regional Insurance Company**
- **Acadia Insurance Company**
- **Berkley Regional Specialty Insurance Company**
- **Continental Western Insurance Company**
- **Firemen’s Insurance Company of Washington, D.C.**
- **Tri-State Insurance Company of Minnesota**
- **Union Insurance Company**
- **Union Standard Lloyds**

The FSR of A+ (Superior) and ICRs of “aa-” have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **Admiral Insurance Group** and its following members:

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- **Admiral Insurance Company**
- **Admiral Indemnity Company**
- **Carolina Casualty Insurance Company**
- **Clermont Insurance Company**

The FSR of A+ (Superior) and ICRs of “aa-” have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **Nautilus Insurance Group** and its following members:

- **Great Divide Insurance Company**
- **Nautilus Insurance Company**

The ICR of “a-” has been affirmed with a stable outlook for **W. R. Berkley Corporation**.

The following debt ratings have been affirmed with a stable outlook:

**W. R. Berkley Corporation—**

- “a-” on \$150 million, 5.125% senior unsecured notes, due 2010
- “a-” on \$200 million, 5.875% senior unsecured notes, due 2013
- “a-” on \$200 million, 5.6% senior unsecured notes, due 2015
- “a-” on \$150 million, 6.15% senior unsecured notes, due 2019
- “a-” on \$300 million, 7.375% senior unsecured notes, due 2019
- “a-” on \$100 million, 8.7% senior unsecured debentures, due 2022
- “a-” on \$250 million, 6.25% senior unsecured notes, due 2037

**W. R. Berkley Capital Trust II—**

- “bbb” on \$250 million, 6.75% trust originated preferred securities, due 2045

The following indicative ratings under the shelf registration have been affirmed with a stable outlook:

**W. R. Berkley Corporation—**

- “a-” on senior debt
- “bbb+” on subordinated debt
- “bbb” on preferred stock

**W. R. Berkley Capital Trust III-**

- “bbb” on preferred securities

The principal methodologies used in determining these ratings, including any additional methodologies and factors that may have been considered, can be found at

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[www.ambest.com/ratings/methodology](http://www.ambest.com/ratings/methodology).

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