



# 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**

**August 27, 2009**

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**A A.M. Best Revises Outlook to Positive for Issuer Credit Ratings of  
HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. and Certain Subsidiaries**

**Ratings Supplement**

The ICRs of “aa-” and FSR of A+ (Superior) have been affirmed for **Houston Casualty Group** and its members. The outlook for the ICRs has been revised to positive from stable and the outlook for the FSR is stable.

- **Houston Casualty Company**
- **Avemco Insurance Company**
- **U.S. Specialty Insurance Company**
- **HCC Insurance Company**
- **HCC Specialty Insurance Company**

The ICRs have been upgraded to “a+” from “a” and the FSRs of A (Excellent) have been affirmed with a stable outlook for the following subsidiaries of **HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.:**

- **American Contractors Indemnity Company**
- **United States Surety Company**

The FSR of A- (Excellent) and ICR of “a-” have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **Pioneer General Insurance Company**, a subsidiary of **HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.**

The FSR of A+ (Superior) and ICR of “aa-” have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **HCC Life Insurance Company**.

The FSR of A (Excellent) and ICR of “a+” have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **Perico Life Insurance Company**.

—MORE—



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The ICR of “a-” has been affirmed with a revised outlook to positive from stable for **HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.**

The following debt rating has been affirmed with a revised outlook to positive from stable:

**HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.—**

-- “a-” on \$125.0 million of 1.3% senior unsecured convertible notes, due 2023

The following indicative debt ratings have been assigned with a positive outlook:

**HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.—**

-- “a-” on senior unsecured

-- “bbb+” on subordinated

**HCC Capital Trust I and II—**

-- “bbb+” on preferred securities

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