

A.M. Best Financial Ratings

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We are often asked by clients and friends about the financial strength of certain aviation insurance underwriting facilities. Many will attempt to find the financial rating of an underwriter from A.M. Best, Moody's, Standard & Poor, or Fitch by looking up the underwriter's company name. They are frequently distressed to find no published rating. The reason is, in the aviation industry, many of the recognized underwriters are not insurance companies. They often are underwriting facilities that offer insurance companies the service of underwriting, record keeping, handling of claims, etc. As a result, they will have no rating under their name. The companies they represent and are contracted with are rated. Others are true companies but the paper they use may not be under the recognized name we are accustomed to in our industry. As an example, USAIG is an underwriting facility that is owned by Berkshire Hathaway. It is financially very sound, but you will never find a financial rating for USAIG. And then, there is the true company complete with its own set of ratings. Companies such as Chartis/AIG, XL Specialty, and Allianz are true companies. Call us and we can provide the ratings on all. We review these monthly for our customers benefit.