

Press Release - DECEMBER 09, 2009

A.M. Best Affirms Ratings of Virginia Surety Company, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLDWICK, N.J., DECEMBER 09, 2009

A.M. Best Co. has affirmed the financial strength rating of A- (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of "a-" of **Virginia Surety Company, Inc.** (Virginia Surety) (Chicago, IL). The outlook for both ratings is stable.

These ratings reflect Virginia Surety's supportive capitalization, profitable underwriting results and management's specialty niche expertise in the extended warranty market. The ratings take into consideration the loss portfolio reinsurance agreement with a former affiliate that covers traditional property/casualty business and the unlimited guarantee and indemnification provided by that company's new owner, **National Indemnity Company** (Omaha, NE), for the run off of all non-warranty business written prior to the 2006 acquisition of Virginia Surety by its current owner, **Onex Corporation** [TSX: OCX].

Virginia Surety and its affiliated companies are the largest underwriters of consumer extended warranties worldwide. Underwriting activities principally include coverage for extended warranty programs on automobiles, household appliances, consumer electronics, credit card enhancement programs and nonstructural home warranty.

For Best's Credit Ratings, an overview of the rating process and rating methodologies, please visit [Best's Ratings & Analysis](#).

The principal methodologies used in determining these ratings, including any additional methodologies and factors that may have been considered, can be found at [Best's Credit Rating Methodology](#).

Founded in 1899, A.M. Best Company is a global full-service credit rating organization dedicated to serving the financial and health care service industries, including insurance companies, banks, hospitals and health care system providers.

[View a list of companies](#) related to this press release. The list will include Best's Ratings along with links to additional company specific information including related news and reports.

10 11% HMM FUGNDQ VDUHLOG SHOG QNDG REMF VHSICRQ MCRVADNP HQMFIIDFVNS 10 11% HMM CRMDQ QHAW HQNS GIVFUIGFMCRVFI HUIQHWY HQW
DGYEHRIDQ INCGICRUGFMVHFFP SDQ IRUIM5 DQVMS QDDVMRII HUCQ IIRUP IRIWKFVUQ IIRUIICDFIDG YEH 10 11% HMM FUGMVSICRQMDUHGFM
UHFPP P HGGDRCVMEEX IIVHCRUKRQIVFXUMMIRUNIP DNIDQ IRW HUIQHWY HQNG FVRCM

10 11% HMM FHYMFFP SHQVDRQIRUQNDVHUIQVIVHXYE MSURYG GVRIRJDCI DRCMVKDVMNDMIS 10 11% HMM D IDORUHFHYHFFP SHQVDRQIUP
UDNGHQMAMIFUCRQUDQ IUDNGVHXYE MFRUSRG FMR I HUGIE 10 11% HMM 10 11% HMM F MCRVFI HUFRCXQ IIRUJGVMRUIVHXYE MI) RUP RUH
IGRUP DRCIQUH DGCQ 10 11% HMM UDUQISURFHMILCFCGQJKCGIQ IIRIFRQIG QNDG CQISXE IIRIGRUP DRCIIGG SHOG CFHIDGGYALDCGFHIFRQ@MFI
IQNHVNSQDVHUCGWH 10 11% HMM RGHRII & RCGFW