

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF CONTROL OF CONNECTICUT SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

BY

**AXIS SPECIALTY LIMITED, AXIS SPECIALTY (BARBADOS) LIMITED and  
AXIS SPECIALTY U.S. HOLDINGS, INC.**

Notice is hereby given that the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Connecticut by her designated hearing officer will conduct a public hearing on July 16, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 724 at the Insurance Department, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 153 Market Street, Hartford, CT. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to §38a-132, §§4-166 through 4-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes as applicable; and §§38a-8-1 through 38a-8-104, and §§38a-138-1 through 38a-138-16 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as applicable. The hearing will include a period devoted exclusively to public comment.

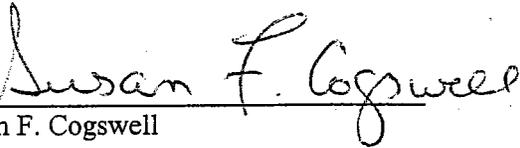
The public hearing is being held on the question of the granting of approval pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §38a-132(b)(1) of the application of Axis Specialty Limited, a Bermuda insurance and reinsurance company, Axis Specialty (Barbados) Limited, a Barbados holding company, and Axis Specialty U.S. Holdings, Inc., a Delaware holding company (together, referred to as the "Applicant") dated April 10, 2002, as amended (the "Application"). The Application requests the Insurance Commissioner's approval, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. §38a-130, of the proposed acquisition of control of Connecticut Specialty Insurance Company, a Connecticut corporation and licensed insurance company ("CT-INS").

The proposed acquisition of control of CT-INS, if approved, will be effected through the purchase of 100% of the issued and outstanding common stock of CT-INS, pursuant to a Stock Purchase and Sale Agreement dated March 14, 2002, by and between Axis Specialty U.S. Holdings, Inc.; Orion Capital Corporation, a Delaware corporation that is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Royal & SunAlliance Insurance Group plc, a publicly traded holding company domiciled in the United Kingdom; and Royal Insurance of America, an Illinois corporation. CT-INS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Orion Capital Corporation. The official record of this proceeding, which includes a copy of the Application and the Agreement, is on file with the Connecticut Insurance Department, 153 Market Street, 7th floor, Hartford, Connecticut, and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

At the public hearing, representatives of the Applicant and CT-INS as well as any other party or intervenor designated by the Insurance Commissioner or her appointed hearing officer, will appear and be heard concerning the consideration by the Insurance Commissioner of the Application. The public will, at the hearing officer's discretion and in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177c(b), be given an opportunity to comment on the Application with respect to the issues to be considered by the Insurance Commissioner. Written statements may also be submitted during the public comment portion of the public hearing or filed with the Insurance Department prior to the close of business on July 16, 2002, by mailing or delivering such statements to the Connecticut Insurance Department, P.O. Box 816, Hartford, CT 06142-0816, Attention: Mark Franklin, Esq.

The Insurance Department does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities, in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids for communication or other accommodation are invited to make their needs known to Crystal Ross at (860) 297-3947.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2002.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan F. Cogswell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Susan F. Cogswell  
Insurance Commissioner