



## **Fitch Takes Positive Rating Action on SF Transactions on Revised Rating Caps**

Fitch Ratings-London/ Madrid -14 April 2014: Fitch Ratings has taken positive rating action on 150 tranches of 113 structured finance transactions that are capped relative to the sovereign ratings of Ireland, Portugal and Spain. The rating actions follow the revision of the caps on structured finance (SF) ratings to align them with the Country Ceilings of those countries, six notches above the respective sovereign Issuer Default Ratings (IDR).

Selected RMBS tranches rated at the respective sovereign caps have been placed on Rating Watch Positive (RWP) pending further review. The ABS and structured credit (SC) tranches rated at the respective sovereign caps have been upgraded one notch to the Country Ceilings.

The Outlook on Portuguese ABS and SC transactions has been revised to Positive following a similar action on the sovereign IDR (see 'Fitch Revises Outlook on Portugal to Positive; Affirms at 'BB+', dated 11 April 2014).

A full list of rating actions and affected tranches can be found on [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com) or by clicking the link above.

### **KEY RATING DRIVERS**

The caps on ratings of SF tranches for Ireland, Portugal and Spain have now been aligned with the Country Ceilings, which are six notches above the respective sovereign IDR. Previously the SF cap for each of these countries was set at five notches above the IDR of the sovereign.

The tranches identified for potential upgrade (on RWP) are presently rated at the cap and have seen sound asset performance. Fitch will assess whether they have sufficient credit enhancement to warrant a one-notch upgrade from their current ratings.

### **RATING SENSITIVITIES**

The ratings of these tranches remain exposed principally to the sovereign SF rating caps for transactions in Ireland, Portugal and Spain.

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