
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D. C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) **December 22, 2003**

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

010306
(Commission File Number)

58-1407235
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

96 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, Connecticut
(Address of principal executive offices)

06902
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(203) 358-8000**

Item 5. Other Events and Required FD Disclosure

On December 22, 2003, Independence Holding Company issued a press release announcing the purchase of a block of American Independence Corp. shares, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

On December 31, 2003, Independence Holding Company issued a press release announcing acquisitions of blocks of business, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 99.2.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY

/s/ Teresa A. Herbert Date: December 31, 2003
Teresa A. Herbert
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
96 CUMMINGS POINT ROAD
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**CONTACT: TERESA A. HERBERT
(203) 358-8000
www.Independenceholding.com**

NASDAQ – INHO

NEWS RELEASE

**INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF
BLOCK OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE CORP. SHARES**

Stamford, Connecticut, December 22, 2003. Independence Holding Company ("IHC") (NASDAQ: INHO) announced today that it purchased 613,401 shares of the common stock of American Independence Corp. (NASDAQ: AMIC), which brings IHC's ownership of AMIC to 3,280,067 shares or approximately 39% of the outstanding.

IHC is a holding company engaged principally in the life and health insurance business and the acquisition of blocks of policies through Standard Security Life Insurance company of New York and Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. Standard Security Life markets medical stop-loss, long-term and short-term disability, and group life and managed health care products. Madison National Life sells group life and disability, medical stop-loss, credit life and disability and individual life insurance.

Exhibit 99.2

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
96 CUMMINGS POINT ROAD
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06902

CONTACT: TERESA A. HERBERT
(203) 358-8000

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NASDAQ – INHO

NEWS RELEASE

**INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY ANNOUNCES ACQUISITIONS OF
BLOCKS OF BUSINESS**

Stamford, Connecticut, December 30, 2003. Independence Holding Company ("IHC") (NASDAQ: INHO) announced today that Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. and Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York acquired, in separate transactions, blocks of annuities and life policies with reserves in excess of \$93 million.

Roy T.K. Thung, Chief Executive Officer of IHC, stated "We are delighted that our acquisition group continues to acquire blocks of business. These acquisitions bring our total assets to approximately \$900 million."

IHC is a holding company engaged principally in the life and health insurance business and the acquisition of blocks of policies through Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York and Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. Standard Security Life markets medical stop-loss, long-term and short-term disability, and group life and managed health care products. Madison National Life sells group life and disability, medical stop-loss, credit life and disability and individual life insurance.

Some of the statements included herein may be considered to be forward looking statements which are subject to certain risk and uncertainties. Factors which could cause the actual results to differ materially from those suggested by such statements are described from time to time in IHC's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.