



## Information Circular: iShares Trust

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**To:** Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Heads of ETF Trading, Structured Products Traders

**From:** BX Listing Qualifications Department

**DATE:** January 15, 2009

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<b>Exchange-Traded Fund</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>CUSIP #</b>
iShares S&P World ex-U.S. Property Index Fund	WPS	464288422

### Background Information on the Fund

The iShares Trust (the "Trust") is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Trust consists of several separate exchange-traded funds. This circular relates to the iShares S&P World ex-U.S. Property Index Fund (the "Fund"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares." Barclays Global Fund Advisors ("BGFA" or the "Adviser") is the investment adviser for the Fund.

The Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the S&P/Citigroup BMI World ex-U.S. Property Index (the "Underlying Index"). The Fund's investment objective and its Underlying Index may be changed without shareholder approval. The Underlying Index is sponsored by an organization (the "Index Provider") that is independent of the Fund and BGFA. The Index Provider determines the relative weightings of the securities in the Underlying Index and publishes information regarding the market value of the Underlying Index. The Fund's Index Provider is Standard & Poor's.

The Underlying Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that defines and measures the universe of publicly traded real estate companies domiciled in developed countries outside of the United States. The companies in the Underlying Index are engaged in real estate related activities, such as property ownership, management, development, rental and investment. As of May 31, 2007, the Underlying Index was comprised of stocks of companies located in the following countries: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. As of May 31, 2007, the Underlying Index had a total market capitalization of approximately \$615 billion.

BGFA uses a "passive" or indexing approach to try to achieve the Fund's investment objective. Unlike many investment companies, the Fund does not try to "beat" the

index it tracks and does not seek temporary defensive positions when markets decline or appear overvalued.

Indexing eliminates the chance that the Fund may substantially outperform its Underlying Index, but also may reduce some of the risks of active management, such as poor security selection. Indexing seeks to achieve lower costs and better after-tax performance by keeping portfolio turnover low in comparison to actively managed investment companies.

The Fund generally will invest at least 90% of its assets in the securities of its Underlying Index or in depositary receipts representing securities in the Underlying Index. The Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities not included in its Underlying Index, but which BGFA believes will help the Fund track its Underlying Index. For example, the Fund may invest in securities not included in its Underlying Index in order to reflect various corporate actions (such as mergers) and other changes in its Underlying Index (such as reconstitutions, additions and deletions). The Fund also may invest its other assets in futures contracts, options on futures contracts, options and swaps related to its Underlying Index, as well as cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds affiliated with BGFA.

The Adviser uses a representative sampling indexing strategy to manage the Fund. "Representative sampling" is an indexing strategy that involves investing in a representative sample of the securities included in the relevant Underlying Index that collectively has an investment profile similar to the Underlying Index. The securities selected are expected to have, in the aggregate, investment characteristics (based on factors such as market capitalization and industry weightings), fundamental characteristics (such as return variability and yield) and liquidity measures similar to those of the relevant Underlying Index. The Fund may or may not hold all of the securities that are included in the Underlying Index.

The Adviser expects that, over time, the correlation between the Fund's performance and that of its Underlying Index, before fees and expenses, will be 95% or better. A correlation percentage of 100% would indicate perfect correlation. The difference between 100% correlation and the Fund's actual percentage correlation with its Underlying Index is called "tracking error." The Fund's use of a representative sampling indexing strategy can be expected to result in greater tracking error than if the Fund used a replication indexing strategy. "Replication" is an indexing strategy in which a fund invests in substantially all of the securities in its underlying index in approximately the same proportions as in the underlying index.

State Street Bank and Trust Company is the administrator, custodian and transfer agent for the Fund.

As described more fully in the prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information for the Fund, the Fund issues and redeems Shares only in blocks of 100,000 Shares. These blocks are known as "Creation Units." To purchase or redeem a Creation Unit, you must be an Authorized Participant or you must trade through a broker that is an Authorized Participant. An Authorized Participant is a participant in the Depository Trust Company ("DTC") that has executed a Participant Agreement with the Fund's Distributor. Because Creation Units can be purchased only in exchange for a basket of securities likely to cost millions of dollars, it is expected that only a limited number of institutional investors will purchase and redeem Shares directly with the Fund.

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid at least annually by the Fund. The Fund generally distributes net capital gains, if any, to shareholders annually.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no stock certificates are issued. DTC or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares of the Fund and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The net asset value ("NAV") for the Fund will generally be determined once daily Monday through Friday generally as of the regularly scheduled close of business of the NYSE (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET")) on each day that the NYSE is open for trading, based on prices at the time of closing, provided that (a) any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar shall be translated into U.S. dollars at the prevailing market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more major banks or dealers that makes a two-way market in such currencies (or a data service provider based on quotations received from such banks or dealers); and (b) U.S. fixed-income assets may be valued as of the announced closing time for trading in fixed-income instruments on any day that the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association announces an early closing time. The NAV of the Fund is calculated by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of outstanding shares of the Fund, generally rounded to the nearest cent.

The registration statement for the Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the underlying Index, visit the Fund's website at [www.ishares.com](http://www.ishares.com).

### **Purchases and Redemptions in Creation Unit Size**

BX members are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit Size are described in the Trust's prospectus and SAI, and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit Size aggregations or multiples thereof.

### **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing the Fund's performance to not match the performance of the underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), stock market risk, investment style risk, sector risk, investment approach risk, concentration risk, non-diversification risk, issuer-specific risk, management risk, global real estate risk, geographic risk, currency risk and foreign investment risk.

### **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on BX is on a UTP basis and is subject to BX equity trading rules.

## **Trading Hours**

The values of the Index underlying the Shares are disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds. The Shares will trade on BX between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Eastern Time (ET), unless otherwise indicated. For trading during BX's Pre-Market and Post-Market Sessions, market participants should note that additional risks may exist with respect to trading the Funds during these sessions, when the underlying index's values may not be disseminated.

## **Suitability**

Trading in the Shares on BX will be subject to the provisions of BX Rule 2310. Members recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in the BX Conduct Rules.

Members also should review FINRA Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

## **Trading Halts**

BX will halt trading in the Shares of the Fund in accordance with BX Rule 4120. The grounds for a halt under BX Rule 4120 include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the Fund and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, BX will also stop trading the Shares of the Fund if the primary market delists the Fund.

## **Delivery of a Prospectus**

BX members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund's website. The prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Fund's registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). For further information about the Fund, please refer to the registration statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, BX Rule 4420(j)(2) requires that BX members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of

the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Trust for the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, BX members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by a BX member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of the Shares of the Fund has been prepared by the Trust and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing Shares of the Fund. In addition, upon request you may obtain from your broker a prospectus for Shares of the Fund."

A BX member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to BX member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, BX members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

### **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The SEC has issued exemptive, interpretive or no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") regarding trading in the above mentioned exchange-traded Fund.

### **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

## **Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares (SEC Rule 10b-10)**

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust for the Fund to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemptions is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c);
- 3) Except for the identity, number and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

## **SEC Rule 14e-5**

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Fund (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- 1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
- 2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

## Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not Authorized Participants (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of the Fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of the Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(l)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of the Fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

## SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See [letter](#) from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

**This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. BX members should consult the Fund's prospectus and/or the Fund's website for relevant information.**

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Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

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