



BZX Information Circular 12-025
BYX Information Circular 12-025

Date: February 22, 2012

Re: iShares Barclays GNMA Bond Fund

Pursuant to Rule 14.11(j)(2) of the Rules of BATS Exchange, Inc. and 14.1(c)(2) of the Rules of BATS Y-Exchange, Inc. (each referred to hereafter as “BATS” or the “Exchange”), this Information Circular is being issued to advise you that the following securities have been approved for trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges (“UTP”) on the Exchange as UTP Derivative Securities pursuant to Chapter XIV of the Exchange’s Rules.

<u>Securities (the “Funds”)</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
iShares Utilities Sector Bond Fund	AMPS
iShares Barclays CMBS Bond Fund	CMBS
iShares Industrials Sector Bond Fund	ENGN
iShares Barclays US Treasury Bond Fund	GOVT
iShares Financials Sector Bond Fund	MONY
iShares Aaa-A Rated Corporate Bond Fund	QLTA

Commencement of Trading on the Exchange: February 23, 2012

Issuer/Trust: iShares Trust

Issuer Website: www.ishares.com

Primary Listing Exchange: NYSE Arca

Compliance and supervisory personnel should note that, among other things, this Information Circular discusses the need to deliver a prospectus to customers purchasing shares (“Shares”) issued by iShares Trust (“Trust”). Please forward this Information Circular to other interested persons within your organization.

The purpose of this information circular is to outline various rules and policies that will be applicable to trading in these new products pursuant to the Exchange’s unlisted trading privileges, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the Shares. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the Shares and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website or examine the Issuer Registration Statement or review the most current information bulletin issued by the Primary Listing Exchange. The Issuer Website, the Prospectus and the Issuer Registration Statement are hereafter collectively referred to as the “Issuer Disclosure Materials.”

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 exchange-traded funds (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”). This circular refers only to the Funds listed above. The shares of each of the Funds listed above are referred to herein as “Shares.” BlackRock Fund Advisors (“BFA” or the “Advisor”) is the investment advisor for the Funds.

The iShares Barclays U.S. Treasury Bond Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Barclays Capital U.S. Treasury Bond Index (the “Treasury Index”).

The Treasury Index is a market-capitalization weighted index that measures the performance of public obligations of the U.S. Treasury that have a remaining maturity of one year or more.

The Treasury Index includes publicly-issued U.S. Treasury securities that have a remaining maturity of one year or more and have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value. In addition, the securities in the Treasury Index must be denominated in U.S. dollars and must be fixed-rate and non-convertible. Excluded from the Treasury Index are certain special issues, such as flower bonds, targeted investor notes, state and local government series bonds and coupon issues that have been stripped from bonds. The securities in the Treasury Index are updated on the last calendar day of each month.

The iShares Aaa - A Rated Corporate Bond Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate Aaa - A Capped Index (the “Capped Index”).

The Capped Index is a subset of the Barclays U.S. Corporate Index, which measures the performance of the Aaa – A rated range of the fixed-rate, U.S. dollar-denominated taxable, corporate bond market. The Capped Index is market-capitalization weighted with a 3% cap on any one issuer and a pro rata distribution of any excess weight across the remaining issuers in the Capped Index.

The Capped Index includes U.S. dollar-denominated securities publicly issued by U.S. and non-U.S. industrial, utility and financial corporate issuers, with maturities of one year or more, that have \$500 million or more of outstanding face value. Each corporate bond must be registered with the SEC, have been exempt from registration at issuance, or have been offered pursuant to Rule 144A with registration rights. In addition, only securities rated A3 or higher will be included in the Capped Index. When ratings from each of Fitch, Inc., Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. and Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC (a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.), are available, the median rating is used to determine eligibility. When ratings from only two of these agencies are available, that lower rating is used to determine eligibility. When a rating from only one of these agencies is available, that rating is used to determine eligibility. The securities in the Capped Index are updated on the last calendar day of each month.

The Fund will invest in non-U.S. issuers to the extent necessary for it to track the Capped Index. As of December 31, 2011, 22.15% of the Capped Index was composed of bonds issued by non-U.S. issuers from the following countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The iShares Financials Sector Bond Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Barclays Capital U.S. Financial Institutions Capped Bond Index (the “Financial Index”).

The Financial Index measures the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated publicly-issued investment-grade corporate bonds in the financial sector. The Financial Index is market-capitalization weighted with a 5% cap on any one issuer and a pro rata distribution of any excess weight across the remaining issuers in the Financial Index.

The Financial Index includes investment-grade corporate bonds publicly issued by U.S. and non-U.S. issuers in the U.S. bond market with maturities of one year or more and with \$250 million or more of outstanding face value. Each corporate bond must be registered with the SEC, have been exempt from registration at issuance, or have been offered pursuant to Rule 144A with registration rights. In addition, securities in the Financial Index must be fixed-rate and non-convertible. The securities in the Financial Index are updated on the last calendar day of each month.

The Fund will invest in non-U.S. issuers to the extent necessary for it to track the Financial Index. As of December 31, 2011, 18.68% of the Financial Index was composed of bonds issued by non-U.S. issuers from the following countries: Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The iShares Industrials Sector Bond Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Barclays Capital U.S. Industrial Bond Index (the "Industrial Index").

The Industrial Index measures the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated publicly-issued investment-grade U.S. corporate bonds in the industrial sector. The Industrial Index includes investment-grade corporate bonds publicly issued by U.S. and non-U.S. issuers in the U.S. bond market with maturities of one year or more and with \$250 million or more of outstanding face value. Each corporate bond must be registered with the SEC, have been exempt from registration at issuance, or have been offered pursuant to Rule 144A with registration rights. In addition, securities in the Industrial Index must be fixed-rate and non-convertible. The Industrial Index is market-capitalization weighted. The securities in the Industrial Index are updated on the last calendar day of each month.

The Fund will invest in non-U.S. issuers to the extent necessary for it to track the Industrial Index. As of December 31, 2011, 20.13% of the Industrial Index was composed of bonds issued by non-U.S. issuers from the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The iShares Utilities Sector Bond Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Barclays Capital U.S. Utility Bond Index (the "Utility Index").

The Utility Index measures the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated publicly-issued investment grade corporate bonds in the utility sector. The Utility Index includes investment grade corporate bonds publicly issued by U.S. and non-U.S. issuers in the U.S. bond market with maturities of one year or more and with \$250 million or more of outstanding face value. Each corporate bond must be registered with the SEC, have been exempt from registration at issuance, or have been offered pursuant to Rule 144A with registration rights. In addition, securities in the Utility Index must be fixed-rate and non-convertible. The Utility Index is market-capitalization weighted and the securities in the Utility Index are updated on the last calendar day of each month.

The Fund will invest in non-U.S. issuers to the extent necessary for it to track the Utility Index. As of December 31, 2011, 5.99% of the Utility Index was composed of bonds issued by non-U.S. issuers from the following countries: Canada, Chile, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The iShares Barclays CMBS Bond Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Barclays Capital U.S. CMBS (ERISA Only) Index (the "CMBS Index").

The CMBS Index measures the performance of investment-grade commercial mortgage-backed securities ("CMBS"), which are classes of securities (known as "certificates") that represent interests in "pools" of commercial mortgages. The CMBS Index includes only CMBS that are Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA") eligible under the underwriter's exemption, which will

deem ERISA eligible the certificates with the first priority of principal repayment, as long as certain conditions are met, including the requirement that the certificates be rated in one of the three highest rating categories by Fitch, Inc., Moody's Investors Services or Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

The CMBS Index includes investment-grade CMBS that are ERISA eligible with \$300 million or more of aggregate outstanding transaction size. In addition, the original aggregate transaction must be \$500 million or more and the tranche size must be \$25 million or more. CMBS certificates must have an expected life of at least one year and must be either fixed-rate or subject to an interest rate cap equal to the weighted average coupon of the underlying asset pool. Excluded from the CMBS Index are non-ERISA eligible securities, agency transactions and privately issued securities, including those which may be resold in accordance with Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The securities in the CMBS Index are updated on the last calendar day of each month.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), the Funds issue and redeem Shares at net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks of 100,000 Shares, 150,000 for CMBS, (each block of Shares called a "Creation Unit"), or multiples thereof. As a practical matter, only broker-dealers or large institutional investors with creation and redemption agreements (called Authorized Participants) can purchase or redeem these Creation Units. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Funds.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no Share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares of the Funds and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV per Share for each Fund is computed 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 Shares outstanding. Expenses and fees are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV of each Fund is determined each business day after the close of trading (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time or "ET") of the New York Stock Exchange. Any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

Please see the Funds' prospectus for more information regarding the Funds and their investment objectives.

The registration statement for the Funds describes the various fees and expenses for the Funds' Shares. For a more complete description of the Funds and the Underlying Indexes, visit the Issuer Website.

Principal Risks

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

Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares

Trading in the Shares on BATS is subject to BATS equity trading rules.

Trading Hours

The value of the Index underlying the Shares will be disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds during Regular Trading Hours.

The Shares will trade on BATS between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange's Pre-Opening and After Hours Trading Sessions may result in additional trading risks which include: (1) that the current underlying indicative value may not be updated during the Pre-Opening and After Hours Trading Sessions, (2) lower liquidity in the Pre-Opening and After Hours Trading Sessions may impact pricing, (3) higher volatility in the Pre-Opening and After Hours Trading Sessions may impact pricing, (4) wider spreads may occur in the Pre-Opening and After Hours Trading Sessions, and (5) because the indicative value is not calculated or widely disseminated during the Pre-Opening or After Hours Trading Sessions, an investor who is unable to calculate an implied value for the Shares in those sessions may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

Dissemination of Data

The Consolidated Tape Association will disseminate real time trade and quote information for the Shares to Tape B.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Listing Market</i>	<i>Trading Symbol</i>	<i>IOPV Symbol</i>	<i>NAV Symbol</i>
iShares Utilities Sector Bond Fund	NYSE Arca	AMPS	AMPS.IV	AMPS.NV
iShares Barclays CMBS Bond Fund	NYSE Arca	CMBS	CMBS.IV	CMBS.NV
iShares Industrials Sector Bond Fund	NYSE Arca	ENGN	ENGN.IV	ENGN.NV
iShares Barclays US Treasury Bond Fund	NYSE Arca	GOVT	GOVT.IV	GOVT.NV
iShares Financials Sector Bond Fund	NYSE Arca	MONY	MONY.IV	MONY.NV
iShares Aaa-A Rated Corporate Bond Fund	NYSE Arca	QLTA	QLTA.IV	QLTA.NV

Delivery of a Prospectus

BATS 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 Funds Registration Statement (including the exhibits to the Registration Statement), parts of which have been

omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to its 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, BATS Rule 14.1(c)(3) require that BATS Members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Issuer of the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, BATS 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 BATS 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 UTP Derivative Securities*] has been prepared by the [*open-ended management investment company name*] and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing [*the UTP Derivative Securities*]."

A BATS 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 BATS member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, BATS Members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

Suitability

Trading in the securities on BATS will be subject to the provisions of Exchange Rule 3.7. Members recommending transactions in the securities to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer.

Trading Halts

BATS will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with BATS Rules. The grounds for a halt include a halt because the intraday indicative value of the security and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, a halt for other regulatory reasons or due to other conditions or circumstances deemed to be detrimental to the maintenance of a free and orderly market.

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has issued letters granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange-traded securities listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria.

AS WHAT FOLLOWS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF OUTLINED IN THE NO-ACTION LETTERS REFERENCED ABOVE, THE EXCHANGE ADVISES INTERESTED PARTIES TO CONSULT THE NO-ACTION LETTERS FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MATTERS COVERED THEREIN AND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RELIEF GRANTED IN RESPECT OF TRADING IN SECURITIES. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO CONSULT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS.

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 Funds 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 Funds (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 Funds for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Funds' 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.

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

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 Funds 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 Funds to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Funds 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 redemption 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); and
- 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).

Section 11(d)(1); 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 a 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 a 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 a 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.

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 Funds (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 purchase; 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.

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. BATS Members should consult the prospectus for a security and the security's website for relevant information.

Please contact Membership Services at 913.815.7002 with any inquiries regarding this Information Circular.