



**BZX Information Circular 15-049**  
**BYX Information Circular 15-049**

**EDGA Information Circular 15-049**  
**EDGX Information Circular 15-049**

**Date:** April 29, 2015

**Re:** iShares Trust

Pursuant to the Rules of BATS Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”), BATS Y-Exchange, Inc. (“BYX”), EDGA Exchange, Inc. (“EDGA”) and EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”, each such exchange referred to hereafter as “BATS” or the “Exchange” and together with BZX, BYX and EDGA, 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.

<b><u>Securities (the “Fund”)</u></b>	<b><u>Symbol</u></b>
iShares FactorSelect MSCI Global ETF	ACWF
iShares FactorSelect MSCI International ETF	INTF
iShares FactorSelect MSCI Intl Small-Cap ETF	ISCF
iShares FactorSelect MSCI USA ETF	LRGF
iShares FactorSelect MSCI USA Small-Cap ETF	SMLF

**Commencement of Trading on the Exchange:** April 30, 2015

**Issuer/Trust:** iShares Trust

**Issuer/Trust Website:** [www.ishares.com](http://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 of the Fund (“Shares”) issued by the 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 Funds**

Each Fund seeks investment results that correspond (before fees and expenses) generally to the price and yield performance of its underlying index, as detailed below:

Fund Symbol	Underlying Index Name	Index Symbol
ACWF	MSCI ACWI Diversified Multi-Factor Index	M1WDDVR
INTF	MSCI World ex USA Diversified Multi-Factor Index	M1WOUDMR
ISCF	MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Diversified Multi-Factor Index	M1WOUMFR
LRGF	MSCI USA Diversified Multi-Factor Index	M2WODVR
SMLF	MSCI USA Small Cap Diversified Multi-Factor Index	M2USDMR

Each Index is designed to select equity securities from its “Parent Index” (as defined for each Index below) that have high exposure to four investment style factors: value, quality, momentum and low size, while maintaining a level of risk similar to that of the Parent Index. Each Index is also constrained in its construction to limit turnover and extreme exposures to particular sectors, countries, component weights or other investment style factors.

In selecting equity securities from the Parent Index, MSCI computes a composite score for a security through a proprietary model based on four equally-weighted investment style factors: the value score is derived from a company’s valuation ratios; the quality score is calculated from a company’s underlying metrics; the momentum score is calculated through a global equity model, which aims to measure a security’s sustained relative performance against the global market over a two-year period and against other securities based in the same country over the previous six and 12 months (with a one month lag); and the low size score is derived from a global equity model that seeks to measure the market capitalization of a company as compared to other companies based in the same country.

#### **MSCI USA Diversified Multi-Factor Index**

As of February 27, 2015, the Index consisted of approximately 132 companies from the United States. The Index may include large- and mid-capitalization companies, and components primarily include financials, healthcare and information technology companies. The Parent Index is the MSCI USA Index.

#### **MSCI USA Small Cap Diversified Multi-Factor Index**

As of February 27, 2015, the Index consisted of approximately 545 companies from the United States. The Index may include small-capitalization companies, and components primarily include financials, healthcare and information technology companies. The Parent Index is the MSCI USA Small Cap Index.

#### **MSCI World ex USA Diversified Multi-Factor Index**

As of February 27, 2015, the Index consisted of approximately 213 companies from the following countries or regions: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Index may include large- and mid-capitalization companies, and components primarily include consumer discretionary, financials and industrials companies. The Parent Index is the MSCI World ex USA Index.

#### **MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Diversified Multi-Factor Index**

As of February 27, 2015, the Index consisted of approximately 774 companies from the following countries or regions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Index may include small-capitalization companies, and components primarily include consumer discretionary, financials and industrials companies. The Parent Index is the MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Index.

#### **MSCI ACWI Diversified Multi-Factor Index**

As of February 27, 2015, the Index consisted of approximately 595 companies from the following countries or regions: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark,

Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Index may include large- and mid-capitalization companies, and components primarily include financials, healthcare and industrials companies. The Parent Index is the MSCI ACWI Index.

For more information regarding each Fund's investment strategy, please read the Trust's prospectus for the Funds.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, each Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value ("NAV"). Each Fund will issue or redeem shares that have been aggregated into blocks of 50,000 shares and or multiples thereof ("Creation Units") to authorized participants who have entered into agreements with the Funds' distributor. The Funds generally will issue or redeem Creation Units in return for a designated portfolio of securities (and an amount of cash) that the Funds specify each day.

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 and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV of each Fund is generally determined as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business. 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.

### **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to each Fund's Prospectus for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Fund. These risks include, but are not limited to, asset class risk, calculation methodology risk, concentration risk, equity securities risk, financials sector risk, healthcare sector risk, index-related risk, information technology sector risk, issuer risk, management risk, market risk, market trading risk, mid-capitalization companies risk, non-diversification risk, passive investment risk, risk of investing in developed countries, risk of investing in the United States, securities lending risk, small-capitalization companies risk, and tracking error risk. INTF, ISCF, and ACWF are also exposed to: currency risk, custody risk, geographic risk, industrials sector risk, management risk, non-U.S. securities risk, privatization risk, reliance on trading partners risk, risk of investing in Japan, risk of investing in the United Kingdom, security risk, structural risk, and valuation risk. In addition, the market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares. As a result, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV. The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings.

### **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 BZX and BYX between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET. The Shares will trade on EDGA and EDGX between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange's Pre-Opening and After Hours/Post-Closing Trading Sessions ("Extended Market Sessions") may result in additional trading risks which include: (1) that the current underlying indicative value may not be updated during the Extended Market Sessions, (2) lower liquidity in the Extended Market Sessions may

impact pricing, (3) higher volatility in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (4) wider spreads may occur in the Extended Markets Sessions, and (5) because the indicative value is not calculated or widely disseminated during the Extended Market 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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Listing Market</b>	<b>Trading Symbol</b>	<b>IOPV Symbol</b>	<b>NAV Symbol</b>
iShares FactorSelect MSCI Global ETF	NYSE Arca	ACWF	ACWF.IV	ACWF.NV
iShares FactorSelect MSCI International ETF	NYSE Arca	INTF	INTF.IV	IINTF.NV
iShares FactorSelect MSCI Intl Small-Cap ETF	NYSE Arca	ISCF	ISCF.IV	ISCF.NV
iShares FactorSelect MSCI USA ETF	NYSE Arca	LRGF	LRGF.IV	LRGF.NV
iShares FactorSelect MSCI USA Small-Cap ETF	NYSE Arca	SMLF	SMLF.IV	SMLF.NV

### **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Exchange 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, Exchange Rules require that Exchange 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, Exchange 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*]."

An Exchange 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 such Exchange member under this rule.

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

### **Suitability**

Trading in the securities on the Exchange 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**

The Exchange will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with Exchange 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 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 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 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 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 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 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. 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.