

EDGA & EDGX STOCK EXCHANGES			
Regulatory Information Circular			
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**Subject:** iShares® Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund

## **Background Information on the Fund**

As more fully explained in the <u>Registration Statement</u> (File Nos. 33-97598 and 811-09102), iShares<sup>®</sup> Trust ("Trust") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") as an investment company and currently has a number of separate investment portfolios, of which the iShares<sup>®</sup> Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund (the "Fund") is an individual portfolio. The Fund is an exchange-traded "index fund" ("ETF"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares."

BlackRock Fund Advisors ("BFA") serves as the investment adviser for the Fund. BlackRock Investments, LLC is the distributor for the Fund (the "Distributor"). State Street Bank and Trust Company is the administrator, custodian and transfer agent for the Fund. Additionally, BlackRock International Limited serves as sub-adviser to the Fund.

### **Description of the Fund**

The Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Morningstar Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Index (the "Underlying Index").

The Underlying Index tracks the performance of the U.S. dollar-denominated emerging market corporate bond market. All bonds included in the Underlying Index are selected according to a set of rule-based inclusion criteria regarding issue size, bond type, maturity, and liquidity. The securities included in the Underlying Index are rebalanced on the first business day of each month. Eligible countries are rebalanced annually at the end of September.

The Underlying Index includes bonds issued by corporations and quasi-sovereign corporations (more than 50% government ownership) based in Latin American, Eastern European, Middle Eastern/African, and Asian (excluding Japan) countries which meet certain criteria to be classified as emerging market countries by proprietary index methodology. Eligible individual securities must have a minimum outstanding face value of \$500 million or more, and eligible issuers must have aggregate outstanding debt of \$1 billion or more to be included in the Underlying Index. All securities included in the Underlying Index must be U.S. dollar-denominated fixed rate bonds with a remaining maturity of 13 months or more at the time of

rebalancing and a minimum of 36 months to maturity or greater at time of issuance. There are no ratings restrictions on either the individual bonds or the country of risk, but all bonds in the Underlying Index must have at least one credit rating from Moody's, S&P or Fitch.

The Underlying Index is market capitalization weighted with a 5% capping of issuers and a pro rata distribution of any excess weight across the remaining issuers in the Underlying Index. As of March 31, 2012, the Underlying Index included issuers located in Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Component companies include energy, financial and industrials companies, and may change over time.

BFA uses a "passive" or indexing approach to try to achieve the Fund's investment objectives. Unlike many investment companies, the Fund does not try to "beat" the index they track and do not seek temporary defensive positions when markets decline or appear overvalued.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), the Fund issues and redeems Shares at net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks of 100,000 Shares (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 Fund.

Dividends from net investment income, if any, generally are declared and paid monthly by the Fund. Distributions of net realized securities gains, if any, generally are declared and paid once a year, but the Trust may make distributions on a more frequent basis for the Fund. The Trust reserves the right to declare special distributions if, in its reasonable discretion, such action is necessary or advisable to preserve its status as a regulated investment company ("RIC") or to avoid imposition of income or excise taxes on undistributed income or realized gains.

Dividends and other distributions on shares of the Fund are distributed on a *pro rata* basis to beneficial owners of such shares. Dividend payments are made through DTC participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners then of record with proceeds received from the Fund.

The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") will serve as securities depository for the Shares, which may be held only in book-entry form; stock certificates will not be issued. DTC, or its nominee, is the record or registered owner of all outstanding Shares.

The NAV per Share of the Fund will be determined as of the close of trading (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET")) on each day that the Exchanges are open for business. NAV will be available from the Distributor and is also available to National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") participants through data made available from NSCC.

The Fund's Registration Statement describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's

Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the Underlying Index, visit us.ishares.com.

## **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the Fund's Prospectus for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Fund. These risks include concentration risk, credit risk, custody risk, emerging markets risk, energy sector risk, extension risk, financial sector risk, geographic risk, high yield securities risk, interest rate risk, issuer risk, liquidity risk, management risk, market risk, market trading risk, non-U.S. issuers risk, passive investment risk, privately-issued securities risk, quasi-sovereign obligations risk, reliance on trading partners risk, securities lending risk, security risk, structural risk, tracking error risk, and valuation risk.

The Fund's Prospectus describing other risks is available at us.ishares.com.

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

The shares are considered equity securities, thus rendering trading in the shares subject to the Exchange's existing rules governing the trading of equity securities.

## **Trading Hours**

Trading in the shares on EDGA and EDGX Exchanges (the "Exchanges") is on a UTP basis and is subject to the Exchanges equity trading rules. The shares will trade from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Members trading the shares during the Extended Market Sessions (Pre-opening and Post-closing sessions) are exposed to the risk of the lack of the calculation or dissemination of underlying index value or intraday indicative value ("IIV"). For certain derivative securities products, an updated underlying index value or IIV may not be calculated or publicly disseminated in the Extended Market hours. Since the underlying index value and IIV are not calculated or widely disseminated during Extended Market hours, an investor who is unable to calculate implied values for certain derivative securities products during Extended Market hours may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

## **Trading Halts**

The Exchanges will halt trading in the shares in accordance with Exchange Rules 14.1(c)(4). The grounds for a halt under this Rule include a halt by the primary market because it stops trading the shares and/or a halt because dissemination of the IIV or applicable currency spot price has ceased, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, the Exchanges will stop trading the shares if the primary market de-lists the shares.

## **Suitability**

Trading in the shares on the Exchanges will be subject to the provisions of EDGA and EDGX Exchange Rules 3.7. 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 Exchange Rules 3.7.

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.

## **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Pursuant to federal securities laws, investors purchasing shares must receive a prospectus prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction. Investors purchasing shares directly from the Fund (by delivery of the Deposit Amount) must also receive a prospectus.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the Distributor or on the Fund's website. The Prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the 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 the Trust's registration statement.

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

The Commission has issued letters dated October 24, 2006, November 21, 2005 and August 17, 2001 (together, the "No- Action Letters") granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of and rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange-traded funds listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria. Members are referred to the No-Action Letters, available at <a href="www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>, for additional information.

## **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 Commission issued a No-Action Letter by which persons participating in a distribution of shares of a fund may engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution, despite the requirements of from Rule 101 under Regulation M. In addition, the SEC has permitted persons who may be deemed to be

participating in the distribution of shares of a 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 Commission 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 Commission has issued a No-Action Letter relating to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M which 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 Units 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 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

The Commission has permitted any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of 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 has been issued under Rule 14e-5 states that 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, it must be 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 Commission 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 (now FINRA) Rule 2830 (I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). See letter dated November 22, 2005 from Brian A Bussey, Assistant Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Barclays Global Investors, N.A., dated November 22, 2005. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act now states 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.

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

The Commission has issued a No-Action letter 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.

This Regulatory Information Circular is not a statutory Prospectus. Members should consult the Fund's <u>Registration Statement</u>, <u>SAI</u>, <u>Prospectus</u> and <u>website</u> for relevant information.

# Appendix A

TickerFund NameCUSIPCEMBiShares® Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund464286251