



Information Circular: iShares Trust

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

From: BX Listing Qualifications Department

DATE: January 15, 2009

| Exchange-Traded Fund | Symbol | CUSIP # |
|---|--------|-----------|
| iShares Barclays Agency Bond Fund | AGZ | 464288166 |
| iShares S&P Short Term National Municipal Bond Fund | SUB | 464288158 |

Background Information on the Funds

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 two Funds listed above. The shares of each of the Funds listed above are referred to herein as "Shares." Barclays Global Fund Advisors (the "Adviser" or "BGFA") serves as the investment adviser for the Funds.

AGZ seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the agency sector of the U.S. government bond market as defined by the Barclays Capital U.S. Agency Index (the "Agency Index"). The Fund's investment objective and the underlying index may be changed without shareholder approval.

SUB seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the S&P National 0-5 Year Municipal Bond Index (the "Bond Index"). The Fund's investment objective and the underlying index may be changed without shareholder approval.

The Agency Index measures the performance of the agency sector of the U.S. government bond market and is comprised of investment-grade native-currency U.S. dollar-denominated debentures issued by government and government-related agencies, including the Federal National Mortgage Association. The Agency Index includes both callable and non-callable agency securities that are publicly-issued by U.S. government agencies, quasi-federal corporations (as described below), and corporate and foreign debt guaranteed by the U.S. government. In addition, the securities must be fixed-rate and non-convertible. To be included within the index each bond must have the following characteristics: a rating of at least BBB- by Standard & Poor's Rating Services ("S&P"); Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), or BBB- by Fitch Inc. ("Fitch"); at least \$250 million in par amount outstanding; and at least one year to final maturity.

The Bond Index measures the performance of the short-term investment-grade segment of the U.S. municipal bond market. As of September 30, 2008, there were 1,725 issues in the Underlying Index. The Bond Index includes municipal bonds from issuers that are primarily state or local governments or agencies (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. territories such as the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam) such that the interest on each bond is exempt from U.S. federal income taxes and the federal alternative minimum tax as determined by the index provider in accordance with its methodology. Each bond must have a rating of at least BBB- by S&P, Baa3 by Moody's, or BBB- by Fitch Inc. Each bond must be denominated in U.S. dollars. Each bond in the Bond Index must be a constituent of an offering where the original offering amount was at least \$100 million. The bond must have a minimum par amount of \$25 million to be eligible for inclusion. To remain in the Bond Index, a bond must maintain a minimum par amount greater than or equal to \$25 million as of the next rebalancing date. In addition, each bond must have a remaining term to maturity and/or pre-refunded or call date that is less than or equal to five years and greater than or equal to one calendar month to be included in the Bond Index. The Bond Index is a market value weighted index, and the securities in the Bond Index are updated after the close on the last business day of each month.

BGFA uses a "passive" or indexing approach to try to achieve each Fund's investment objective. Unlike many investment companies, the Funds do not try to "beat" the indexes they track and do not seek temporary defensive positions when markets decline or appear overvalued.

Indexing eliminates the chance that the Funds may substantially outperform the underlying indexes 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 Funds invest at least 90% of their assets in securities of the Underlying Index and in depositary receipts based on securities of the Underlying Index. Each Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities, including iShares funds and other ETFs, not included in its Underlying Index but which BGFA believes will help the Fund track its Underlying Index, and in futures contracts, options on futures contracts, options and swaps as well as cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by BGFA.

BGFA uses a representative sampling indexing strategy to manage the Funds. "Representative sampling" is a strategy that involves investing in a representative sample of securities that collectively has an investment profile similar to a Fund's 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 underlying index. The Funds may or may not hold all of the securities that are included in each underlying index.

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

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 (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.

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

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.

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 Funds' website at 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 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, concentration risk, municipal securities risk, credit risk, interest rate risk, leverage risk, call risk and liquidity 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 each 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. ET. 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 NASD 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 a 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 a Fund if the primary market de-lists 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 Funds.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the [Funds' website](#). The prospectus for the Funds 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 Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). For further information about the Funds, please refer to the registration statement.

In the event that the Funds rely 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 Funds, 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 Funds.

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.

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 a 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 a 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 a 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 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.

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 Funds' prospectus and/or the [Funds' website](#) for relevant information.

Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- [Will Slattery](#), BX Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8088
- [BX Market Sales](#) at 800.846.0477