



# Investors Exchange Product Information Circular 2019 - 0037

**Date:** April 30, 2019

**Re:** iShares iBonds Dec 2028 Term Muni Bond ETF

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 Investors Exchange (“IEX” or the “Exchange”) as UTP Derivative Securities pursuant to IEX Rule 16.160. 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 exchange-traded funds. Please forward this Information Circular to interested persons within your organization.

**Exchange-Traded Fund**

**Symbol**

iShares iBonds Dec 2028 Term Muni Bond ETF

IBMQ

Issuer/Trust: iShares Trust

Issuer/Trust Website: <http://www.ishares.com/>

Primary Listing Exchange: Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.

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 products. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the securities 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.

**Background Information on the Fund**

iShares Trust is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), consisting of several investment portfolios. This circular relates only to the Fund listed above. The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as “Shares.”

Fund Symbol	Fund Name	Underlying Index Name
IBMQ	iShares iBonds Dec 2028 Term Muni Bond ETF	S&P AMT-Free Municipal Callable Factor Adjusted 2028 Series Index

The Fund seeks to track the investment results of the S&P AMT-Free Municipal Callable Factor Adjusted 2028 Series Index™ (the “Underlying Index”), which measures the performance of investment-grade (as determined by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (the “Index Provider” or “SPDJI”)), non-callable and callable U.S. municipal bonds expected to mature or be redeemed after December 31, 2027 and prior to December 2, 2028. As of February 28, 2019, there were 6,217 issues in the Underlying Index. The Underlying Index includes municipal bonds primarily from issuers that are state, federal district, or local governments or agencies such that the interest on the bonds is exempt from U.S. federal income taxes.



Bonds issued by U.S. territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are excluded from the Underlying Index. Each bond must have a rating of at least BBB- by S&P Global Ratings, Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or BBB by Fitch Ratings, Inc. and must have a minimum maturity par amount of \$2 million to be eligible for inclusion in the Underlying Index. To remain in the Underlying Index, bonds must maintain a minimum par amount greater than or equal to \$2 million, and must not be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax ("AMT") as of each rebalancing date. All non-callable bonds in the Underlying Index will mature or be redeemed after December 31, 2027 and before December 2, 2028. Callable bonds are eligible subject to the following:

(i) a final maturity date after December 31, 2027 and before December 2, 2028, and a next call date no sooner than two years prior to final maturity; or (ii) a final maturity up to four years after the index maturity year, if the next call date is within the index maturity range. In the Underlying Index year of maturity, bonds that mature or are pre-refunded in their respective year of maturity do not accrue interest past the maturity or pre-refund date. A bond is "pre-refunded" when the bond has been refunded to a call date prior to maturity. In other words, a holder of a "pre-refunded" bond receives all payments of interest and principal back on an earlier date than the stated maturity date of the bond. All payments related to the maturity or pre-refunding of a bond are reinvested in tax-exempt cash or cash equivalents for the duration of each month.

Outside of five years prior to the term of the Fund, the Underlying Index will be market value weighted. Five years prior to the term of the Fund, monthly rebalances occurring in rolling two year periods will remove bonds with a maturity year outside the term of the Fund from the Underlying Index. Such rebalancing will begin with those bonds whose effective maturity date is furthest from that of the Underlying Index. Each two year period will remove bonds scheduled to mature in a specific year outside the term of the Fund. For example, bonds scheduled to mature in 2030 will be removed from the Underlying Index over the course of a two year period beginning in January 2021. As a result, as of December 31, 2027, the Underlying Index will not contain bonds with an effective maturity date later than December 2, 2028.

The Fund is a series of the iShares iBonds® fixed maturity series of bond exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") sponsored by BlackRock, Inc. ("BlackRock"). The iBonds® fixed maturity series do not invest in U.S. savings bonds or other U.S. government bonds (except to the extent the funds hold cash equivalent instruments consistent with their investment objectives) and are not designed to provide protection against inflation. The Fund does not invest in U.S. federal government agency bonds.

BFA 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 may eliminate the chance that the Fund will substantially outperform the 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.

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

The Fund generally will invest at least 90% of its assets in the component securities of the Underlying Index, except during the last months of the Fund's operations, as described below, and may invest up



to 10% of its assets in certain futures, options and swap contracts, cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by BFA or its affiliates (“BlackRock Cash Funds”), as well as in securities not included in the Underlying Index, but which BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index. From time to time when conditions warrant, however, the Fund may invest at least 80% of its assets in the component securities of the Underlying Index, and may invest up to 20% of its assets in certain futures, options and swap contracts, cash and cash equivalents, including shares of BlackRock Cash Funds, as well as in securities not included in the Underlying Index, but which BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index. The Fund will generally hold municipal bond securities issued by state and local municipalities whose interest payments are exempt from U.S. federal income tax, the federal AMT and the federal Medicare contribution tax of 3.8% on “net investment income,” including dividends, interest and capital gains. In the last months of operation, as the bonds held by the Fund mature, the proceeds will not be reinvested in bonds but instead will be held in cash and cash equivalents, including, without limitation, shares of BlackRock Cash Funds, AMT-free tax-exempt municipal notes, variable rate demand notes and obligations, tender option bonds and municipal commercial paper. These cash equivalents may not be included in the Underlying Index. By December 2, 2028, the Underlying Index is expected to consist entirely of cash earned in this manner. Around the same time, the Fund will wind up and terminate, and its net assets will be distributed to then-current shareholders. The Fund seeks to track the investment results of the Underlying Index before fees and expenses of the Fund.

The Underlying Index is sponsored by SPDJI, which is independent of the Fund and BFA. The Index Provider determines the composition and relative weightings of the securities in the Underlying Index and publishes information regarding the market value of the Underlying Index.

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

IEX Members are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Units are described in the Trust’s Prospectus and SAI and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit aggregations or multiples thereof.

#### **Principal Risks**

As with any investment, you could lose all or part of your investment in the Fund, and the Fund’s performance could trail that of other investments. The Fund is subject to the principal risks noted below, any of which may adversely affect the Fund’s net asset value per share (“NAV”), trading price, yield, total return and ability to meet its investment objective. 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 but are not limited to asset class risk, assets under management risk, authorized participant risk, autonomous driving sector risk, calculation methodology risk, concentration risk, consumer discretionary sector risk, currency risk, cyber security risk, electric vehicles sector risk, equities securities risk, geographic risk, index-related risk, information technology sector risk, issuer risk, large-capitalization companies risk, management risk, market risk, market trading risk, national closed market trading risk, non-diversification risk, non-U.S. securities risk, Asian economic risk, European economic risk, operational risk, passive investment risk, risk of investing in developed countries, risk of investing in the U.S., securities lending risk, small fund risk, structural risk, trading error risk, tracking error risk and valuation risk.

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

Trading in the Shares on IEX is subject to IEX trading rules.

#### **Trading Hours**

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



The Shares will trade on IEX between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange's Pre-Market and Post-Market 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.

### **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 an IEX 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 IEX Rule 3.170 and other applicable suitability rules. 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 the Exchange's 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(I)(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 IEX Regulation at 646-343-2000 with any inquiries regarding this Information Circular.