



## Investors Exchange Product Information Circular 2016 - 0955

**Date:** September 14, 2016

**Re:** iShares MSCI Global Funds

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.

<b>Exchange-Traded Fund</b>	<b>Symbol</b>
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers Fund	VEGI
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers Fund	FILL
iShares MSCI Global Select Metals & Mining Producers Fund	PICK
iShares MSCI Global Gold Miners Fund	RING
iShares MSCI Global Silver Miners Fund	SLVP

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 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 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 MSCI Global Agriculture Producers Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the MSCI ACWI Select Agriculture Producers Investable Market Index (the “Agriculture Index”).

The Agriculture Index has been developed by MSCI Inc. (“MSCI”) to measure the combined performance of equity securities of companies primarily engaged in the business of agriculture in both developed and emerging markets. MSCI begins with the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index, and then selects securities of companies that are primarily focused on early phase agricultural production, including companies engaged in the production of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, agricultural products and farm machinery and related parts. Additionally, companies involved in the production of packaged foods and meats are included in the Agriculture Index to the extent they derive the majority



of total revenues from agricultural commodity production. Companies that are manufacturers of finished products that rely on agricultural commodities as raw materials are excluded from the Agriculture Index. As of January 18, 2012, the Agriculture Index consisted of companies in the following 38 countries or regions: Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States. The Fund, under normal market conditions, will invest at least 40% of its assets in issuers organized or located outside the United States or doing business outside the United States.

The iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the MSCI ACWI Select Energy Producers Investable Market Index (the “Energy Index”).

The Energy Index has been developed by MSCI to measure the combined performance of equity securities of companies primarily engaged in the business of energy exploration and production in both developed and emerging markets. MSCI begins with the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index, and then selects securities of companies that are primarily focused on oil and gas exploration and production and coal and consumable fuels production and mining. As of January 18, 2012, the Energy Index consisted of companies in the following 35 countries or regions: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bermuda, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Fund, under normal market conditions, will invest at least 40% of its assets in issuers organized or located outside the United States or doing business outside the United States.

The iShares MSCI Global Select Metals & Mining Producers Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the MSCI ACWI Select Metals & Mining Producers Ex Gold & Silver Investable Market Index (the “Metals Index”).

The Metals Index has been developed by MSCI to measure the combined performance of equity securities of companies primarily involved in the extraction and production of diversified metals, aluminum, steel, and precious metals and minerals, excluding gold and silver, in both developed and emerging markets. MSCI begins with the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index, and then selects securities of companies that are primarily focused on extraction and production of aluminum, steel and diversified metals and mining. The Metals Index excludes companies that are included in the MSCI ACWI Select Gold Miners Investable Market Index and MSCI ACWI Select Silver Miners Investable Market Index. As of January 18, 2012, the Metals Index consisted of companies in the following 36 countries or regions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Fund, under normal market conditions, will invest at least 40% of its assets in issuers organized or located outside the United States or doing business outside the United States.

The iShares MSCI Global Gold Miners Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the MSCI ACWI Select Gold Miners Investable Market Index (the “Gold Index”).

The Gold Index has been developed by MSCI to measure the combined performance of equity securities of companies primarily engaged in the business of gold mining in both developed and



emerging markets. MSCI begins with the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index, and then selects securities of companies that are primarily focused on the extraction and production of gold and companies that generally do not engage in hedging activity with respect to gold prices. The price of the equity securities of these companies and gold may not always be closely correlated. As of January 18, 2012, the Gold Index consisted of companies in the following eight countries or regions: Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Peru, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Fund, under normal market conditions, will invest at least 40% of its assets in issuers organized or located outside the United States or doing business outside the United States.

The iShares MSCI Global Silver Miners Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the MSCI ACWI Select Silver Miners Investable Market Index (the “Silver Index”).

The Silver Index has been developed by MSCI to measure the combined performance of equity securities of companies primarily engaged in the business of silver mining in both developed and emerging markets. MSCI begins with the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index, and then selects securities of companies that are primarily focused on the extraction and production of silver. Companies, which primarily invest in, but do not operate, gold mines and companies that mine or process gold and other precious metals, in addition to silver, may be included in the Silver Index. The price of the equity securities of these companies and silver may not always be closely correlated. As of January 18, 2012, the Silver Index consisted of companies in the following six countries or regions: Canada, Hong Kong, Mexico, Peru, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Fund, under normal market conditions, will invest at least 40% of its assets in issuers organized or located outside the United States or doing business outside the United States.

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.

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](http://www.ishares.com).



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

IEX members and member organizations are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit Size are described in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information 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 and foreign securities 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.

### **Dissemination of Fund Data**

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

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Listing Market</b>	<b>Trading Symbol</b>	<b>IOPV Symbol</b>	<b>NAV Symbol</b>
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers Fund	NYSE Arca	VEGI	VEGI.IV	VEGI.NV
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers Fund	NYSE Arca	FILL	FILL.IV	FILL.NV



iShares MSCI Global Select Metals & Mining Producers Fund	NYSE Arca	PICK	PICK.IV	PICK.NV
iShares MSCI Global Gold Miners Fund	NYSE Arca	RING	RING.IV	RING.NV
iShares MSCI Global Silver Miners Fund	NYSE Arca	SLVP	SLVP.IV	SLVP.NV

### **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.

### **Delivery of a Prospectus**

IEX members and member organizations 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 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].”

Any IEX, BX or PHLX member or member organization 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 IEX members or member organizations under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, IEX members or member organizations 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. IEX members and member organizations should consult the Funds’ prospectus and/or the Funds’ website for relevant information.**

Please contact IEX Regulation at 646-343-2000 with any inquiries regarding this Information Circular.