

Investors Exchange Product Information Circular 2022 - 0174

Date: May 11, 2022

Re: SPDR MarketAxess Investment Grade 400 Corporate 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

SPDR MarketAxess Investment Grade 400 Corporate Bond ETF LQIG

Issuer/Trust: SPDR Series Trust

Issuer/Trust Website: <https://www.ssga.com/spdrs>

Primary Listing Exchange: NYSE Arca

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 SPDR Series Trust (the “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 Gabelli Financial Services Opportunities ETF (the “Fund”). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as “Shares.”

The SPDR MarketAxess Investment Grade 400 Corporate Bond ETF (the “Fund”) seeks to provide investment results that, before fees and expenses, correspond generally to the price and yield performance of an index that tracks the investment grade U.S. corporate bond market.

In seeking to track the performance of the MarketAxess U.S. Investment Grade 400 Corporate Bond Index (the “Index”), the Fund employs a sampling strategy, which means that the Fund is not required to purchase all of the securities represented in the Index. Instead, the Fund may purchase a subset of the securities in the Index in an effort to hold a portfolio of securities with generally the same risk and return characteristics of the Index. The quantity of holdings in the Fund will be based on a number of factors, including asset size of the Fund. Based on its analysis of these factors, SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (“SSGA FM” or the “Adviser”), the investment adviser to the Fund, either may invest the Fund’s assets in a subset of securities in the Index or may invest the Fund’s assets in substantially all of the securities represented in the Index in approximately the same

proportions as the Index, as determined by the Adviser to be in the best interest of the Fund in pursuing its objective.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund generally invests substantially all, but at least 80%, of its total assets in the securities comprising the Index and in securities that the Adviser determines have economic characteristics that are substantially identical to the economic characteristics of the securities that comprise the Index. In addition, in seeking to track the Index, the Fund may invest in debt securities that are not included in the Index, cash and cash equivalents or money market instruments, such as repurchase agreements and money market funds (including money market funds advised by the Adviser). In seeking to track the Index, the Fund's assets may be concentrated in an industry or group of industries, but only to the extent the Index concentrates in a particular industry or group of industries. The Fund may use derivatives, including credit default swaps and credit default index swaps, to obtain investment exposure that the Adviser expects to correlate closely with the Index, or a portion of the Index, and in managing cash flows.

The Index is designed to measure the performance of 400 U.S. dollar denominated investment grade corporate bonds with higher-than-average liquidity relative to the broader U.S. corporate bond market. In order to be included in the Index, a bond must have a corporate bond classification from Refinitiv. Bonds included in the Index must also, as of the Index Determination Date (defined below), (i) be rated investment grade, (ii) be issued in the U.S. by an issuer that is U.S. or non-U.S. domiciled, (iii) be U.S. dollar denominated, (iv) have \$300 million or more of par amount outstanding, (v) have a remaining maturity of at least 2 years, (vi) have an issue date prior to the month of the Index Determination Date (as defined below), and (vii) have a fixed rate (which includes fixed-to-floating rate bonds, provided that such bonds are in their fixed rate term as of the Index Determination Date (as defined below)) or zero percent coupon.

The Index considers investment grade securities to be rated Baa3/BBB-/BBB- or higher, using the middle rating of Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Fitch Ratings, Inc., or S&P Global Ratings. If only two of the three agencies rate the security, then the more conservative (lower) rating will be used to determine Index eligibility. If only one of the agencies rates the security, then that rating will be used. In addition, in order to be included in the Index, bonds must have both bid and offer price Composite ("CP+") valuations. CP+ is the Index Provider's (defined below) proprietary algorithmic pricing engine. CP+ analyzes industry and proprietary trading and liquidity data to provide an indication of the bid price and offer price valuations of a bond. If the CP+ pricing algorithm does not have access to enough liquidity inputs for a bond, it will not generate bid and offer price valuations and the bond will not be eligible for inclusion in the Index. Bonds are also screened based on liquidity as measured by their Relative Liquidity Score ("RLS"). RLS is the Index Provider's proprietary methodology that analyzes industry and proprietary trading data to score a bond's liquidity relative to bonds identified by the Index Provider as having similar risk and return characteristics. A bond's RLS ranges from 1 to 10, with 10 being the most liquid, and only bonds with an RLS of 7 or higher are eligible for inclusion in the Index.

Bonds that remain eligible for inclusion in the Index after applying the screens referred to above are then ranked by par value face amount from highest to lowest. For bonds with the same par value face amount, ranking is based on the following in order of priority: bonds with higher RLS, earlier issue date, and tighter CP+ bid/offer spread. After applying such ranking, the 400 highest-ranked bonds that comply with the following limitations are selected for inclusion in the Index and weighted by market value: (1) any single issuer is limited to 4% of the weight of the Index and (2) to the extent a sector's weight in the MarketAxess U.S. Investment Grade Broad Corporate Bond Index (the "Broad Market Index") is 5% or greater, a sector's weight in the Index is limited to 2.5%

above such sector's weight in the Broad Market Index. The Index is rebalanced and reconstituted monthly after the close of business on the last business day of the month (the "Index Rebalance Date") based on determinations made on the fourth to last business day preceding the Index Rebalance Date (the "Index Determination Date"). Securities eligible for inclusion in the Index include senior and subordinated debt, callable and puttable bonds, Rule 144A securities and Regulation S securities. As of April 30, 2022, a significant portion of the Index comprised companies in the financial sector, although this may change from time to time. As of April 30, 2022, there were 400 securities in the Index.

The Index is sponsored by MarketAxess Technologies Inc. (the "Index Provider"), which is not affiliated with the Fund or the Adviser. The Index Provider determines the composition of the Index, relative weightings of the securities in the Index and publishes information regarding the market value of the Index.

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

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, the Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks of Shares (each, a "Creation Unit"). Creation Units will be issued and redeemed principally in-kind for securities included in the underlying index. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Fund.

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 the 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.

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

Interested persons are referred to the Fund's Registration Statement for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Fund. These may include, but are not limited to, equity investing risk, asset class risk, concentration risk, industry/sector risk, issuer risk, liquidity risk, market risk, asset class risk, interest rate risk, tax 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 of the Fund 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 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 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.