

## MIAX Pearl Equities Exchange Product Circular 2022-2855

**DATE:** March 10, 2022

**TO:** MIAX Pearl Equities Member

**FROM:** MIAX Pearl Equities Listings Department

**RE:** iShares iBonds ETF's- IBHH and IBHI

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MIAX Pearl, LLC ("Exchange") commenced trading of equity securities on September 25, 2020 followed by a security-by-security phase-in period. This Product Circular is being issued to advise you that the following security has been approved for trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges ("UTP") on the Exchange as a UTP Derivative Security pursuant to Exchange Rule 2900, and will begin trading on MIAX PEARL during the phase-in period. See the [Exchange's Website](#) for the phase-in schedule.

<b><u>Security (the "Fund")</u></b>	<b><u>Symbol</u></b>
iShares iBonds 2028 Term High Yield and Income ETF	IBHH
iShares iBonds 2029 Term High Yield and Income ETF	IBHI

**Issuer/Trust:** iSharesTrust

**Issuer/Website:** <https://www.ishares.com/us/strategies/invest-with-bond-etfs>

**Primary Listing Exchange:** CBOE BZX Exchange

The purpose of this Product Circular is to outline various rules and policies that will be applicable to trading in this new product pursuant to the Exchange's unlisted trading privileges, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the Shares. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the Shares and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website, examine the Issuer Registration Statement or review the most current information bulletin issued by the Primary Listing Exchange. The Issuer Website, the Prospectus, the Issuer Registration Statement and the Primary Exchange Circular are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Issuer Disclosure Materials."

## **Background Information on the Fund**

### **iShares iBonds 2028 Term High Yield and Income ETF**

The Fund seeks to meet its investment objective generally by investing in component securities of the Bloomberg 2028 Term High Yield and Income Index (the “Underlying Index”). The Fund may also invest in other exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), U.S. government securities, short-term paper, cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by BlackRock Fund Advisors (“BFA”) or its affiliates. The Fund is a term fund that will terminate on or about December 15, 2028, at which time it will distribute its remaining net assets to shareholders pursuant to a plan of liquidation. The Fund does not seek to return any predetermined amount at maturity or in periodic distributions. The Underlying Index is composed of U.S. dollar denominated, taxable, fixed-rate, high yield (which are considered below investment-grade and commonly referred to as “junk bonds”) and BBB or equivalently rated (as determined by Bloomberg Index Services Limited (the “Index Provider” or “Bloomberg”)) corporate bonds scheduled to mature between January 1, 2028 and December 15, 2028, inclusive. As of January 31, 2022, the Underlying Index includes approximately 321 component securities.

Securities eligible for inclusion in the Underlying Index are selected from a universe of corporate issuers (e.g., industrial, financial institutions, utilities) determined by Bloomberg. As of January 31, 2022, a significant portion of the Underlying Index is represented by securities of companies in the communication services and consumer cyclical industries or sectors. The components of the Underlying Index are likely to change over time. The bonds in the Underlying Index have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value at the time of inclusion. The non-U.S. corporate issuers included in the Underlying Index consist primarily of corporate bonds issued by companies (“Moody’s”), Standard & Poor’s® Global Ratings, a subsidiary of S&P Global (“S&P Global Ratings”) and Fitch Ratings, Inc. (“Fitch”); when a rating from only two agencies is available, the lower is used; when only one agency rates a bond, that rating is used. The Fund is a series of the iShares iBonds fixed maturity series of bond ETFs sponsored by BlackRock, Inc. (“BlackRock”). The iShares 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.

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 aiming to keep 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 will invest at least 80% of its assets in the component securities of the Underlying Index and the Fund will invest at least 90% of its assets in fixed income securities of the types included in the Underlying Index that BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index, in each case except during the last months of the Fund's operations, as described below. The Fund will invest no more than 10% of its assets in futures, options and swaps contracts that BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index, as well as in fixed income securities other than the types included in the Underlying Index, but which BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index. Cash and cash equivalent investments associated with a derivative position will be treated as part of that position for the purposes of calculating investments not included in the Underlying Index.

The Fund seeks to track the investment results of the Underlying Index before fees and expenses of the Fund. In the last six months of operation, as the bonds held by the Fund mature, the proceeds will not be reinvested by the Fund in bonds but instead will be held in cash and cash equivalents. To the extent that the Fund invests in money market or similar funds, it will incur the fees and expenses of such funds. By December 15, 2028, the Underlying Index is expected to consist almost entirely of cash and cash equivalents acquired in this manner. On or around this date, the Fund will wind up and terminate, and its net assets will be distributed to then-current shareholders pursuant to a plan of liquidation. The Fund should not be confused with a target date fund, which has assets that are managed according to a particular investment strategy that converts fund assets to conservative investments over time.

The Fund may lend securities representing up to one-third of the value of the Fund's total assets (including the value of any collateral received).

The Underlying Index is sponsored by Bloomberg, 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.

#### iShares iBonds 2029 Term High Yield and Income ETF

The Fund seeks to meet its investment objective generally by investing in component securities of the Bloomberg 2029 Term High Yield and Income Index (the "Underlying Index"). The Fund may also invest in other exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), U.S. government securities, short-term paper, cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by BlackRock Fund Advisors ("BFA") or its affiliates. The Fund is a term fund that will terminate on or about December 15, 2029, at which time it will distribute its remaining net assets to shareholders pursuant to a plan of liquidation. The Fund does not seek to return any predetermined amount at maturity or in periodic distributions.

The Underlying Index is composed of U.S. dollar denominated, taxable, fixed-rate, high yield (which are considered below investment-grade and commonly referred to as "junk bonds") and BBB or equivalently rated (as determined by Bloomberg Index Services Limited (the "Index Provider" or "Bloomberg")) corporate bonds scheduled to mature between January 1, 2029 and December 15, 2029, inclusive. As of January 31, 2022, the Underlying Index includes approximately 367 component securities. Securities eligible for inclusion in the Underlying Index are selected from a universe of corporate issuers (e.g., industrial, financial institutions, utilities) determined by Bloomberg. As of January 31, 2022, a significant portion of the Underlying Index is represented by securities of companies in the communication services, consumer cyclical and consumer staples industries or sectors. The components of the Underlying Index are likely to change over time. The bonds in the Underlying Index have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value at the time of inclusion. The non-U.S. corporate issuers included in the Underlying Index consist primarily of corporate bonds issued by companies domiciled in developed countries. The Fund will invest in non-U.S. issuers to the extent necessary for it to track the Underlying Index. Each bond included in the Underlying Index must

be registered with the SEC, have been exempt from registration at issuance, or have been offered pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “1933 Act”). Subject to the methodology of the Underlying Index discussed below, the securities in the Underlying Index may carry a coupon that steps-up according to a predetermined schedule (*i.e.*, the interest rate paid on such securities will increase over time). The Underlying Index will be subject to issuer limits of 3%, with any excess redistributed among the remaining constituents on a pro-rata basis. The securities in the Underlying Index are updated on the last calendar day of each month until six months before maturity, with the last rebalance date on June 30, 2029.

The Underlying Index consists of bonds chosen from two sub-indices, the Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Index (the “High Yield Index”) and the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Index (the “Corporate Index”), both of which are stripped of securities maturing outside of the maturity range defined above. BBB-rated bonds from the Corporate Index will be introduced to the Underlying Index under the following conditions: (1) in the last 2.5 years but before the last 6 months of the Underlying Index’s term, the Underlying Index will introduce BBB-rated bonds (which are considered investment-grade) as constituent high yield bonds (which are considered below investment-grade) are called, no longer qualify for inclusion (due to, among other factors, sector reclassifications of issuers, changes in the credit rating of bonds included in the Underlying Index or rebalances to maintain issuer limits), or decline in value compared to a reference point set at 2.5 years from the Underlying Index’s term or (2) if, prior to the last 2.5 years remaining in the Underlying Index’s term, the market value of the high yield bonds in the Underlying Index declines below \$30 billion, the Underlying Index will add BBB-rated bonds to maintain a \$30 billion minimum market value for the Underlying Index. In the final year of the Underlying Index’s term, any principal and interest paid by index constituents is treated as follows: (1) during the first six months of the final year, the Underlying Index reinvests proceeds pro-rata into the remaining bonds in the Underlying Index, and (2) during the last six months of the final year, proceeds are not reinvested and are presumed to be held in cash while earning no interest. Bonds with a clean price (*i.e.*, the price does not include accrued interest between coupon payments) below \$60 are excluded from the Underlying Index and subject to a 3 month lock-out period before they are eligible for inclusion again at rebalance. During the final 2.5 years of the maturity of the index, bonds that fall below \$60 at rebalance will be permanently ineligible for the index. In addition, to be included in the Underlying Index, securities that are rated by all three of the rating agencies named below must be rated “high yield” to be selected from the High Yield Index and “BBB” to be selected from the Corporate Index. The bonds from the High Yield Index must have a rating equal to or below “Ba1”/“BB+”/“BB+” and above “CC”. The bonds from the Corporate Index must have a rating of “BBB” (or equivalent). The Index Provider will use the middle rating of Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. (“Moody’s”), Standard & Poor’s® Global Ratings, a subsidiary of S&P Global (“S&P Global Ratings”) and Fitch Ratings, Inc. (“Fitch”); when a rating from only two agencies is available, the lower is used; when only one agency rates a bond, that rating is used. The Fund is a series of the iShares iBonds fixed maturity series of bond ETFs sponsored by BlackRock, Inc. (“BlackRock”). The iShares 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.

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 aiming to keep 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 will invest at least 80% of its assets in the component securities of the Underlying Index and the Fund will invest at least 90% of its assets in fixed income securities of the types included in the Underlying Index that BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index, in each case except during the last months of the Fund’s operations, as described below. The Fund will invest no more than 10% of its assets in futures, options and swaps contracts that BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index, as well as in fixed income securities other than the types included in the Underlying Index, but which BFA believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index. Cash and cash equivalent investments associated with a derivative position will be treated as part of that position for the purposes of calculating investments not included in the Underlying Index.

The Fund seeks to track the investment results of the Underlying Index before fees and expenses of the Fund. In the last six months of operation, as the bonds held by the Fund mature, the proceeds will not be reinvested by the Fund in bonds but instead will be held in cash and cash equivalents. To the extent that the Fund invests in money market or similar funds, it will incur the fees and expenses of such funds. By December 15, 2029, the Underlying Index is expected to consist almost entirely of cash and cash equivalents acquired in this manner. On or around this date, the Fund will wind up and terminate, and its net assets will be distributed to then-current shareholders pursuant to a plan of liquidation. The Fund should not be confused with a target date fund, which has assets that are managed according to a particular investment strategy that converts fund assets to conservative investments over time.

The Fund may lend securities representing up to one-third of the value of the Fund’s total assets (including the value of any collateral received).

The Underlying Index is sponsored by Bloomberg, 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.

### **Principal Risks**

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 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, equity securities risk, and passive investment risk.

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

Trading in the Shares on MIAX PEARL is subject to MIAX PEARL 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 MIAX PEARL between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 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 professiona

## **Dissemination of Data**

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

iShares iBonds 2028 Term High Yield and Income ETF	CBOE BZX Exchange	IBHH	IBHH.IV	IBHH.NV
iShares iBonds 2029 Term High Yield and Income ETF	CBOE BZX Exchange	IBHI	IBHI.IV	IBHI.NV

## **Delivery of a Prospectus**

MIAX PEARL Equity 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 Fund’s 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 Investment Company Act of 1940 and in the future make available a written product description, MIAX PEARL Rules requires that MIAX PEARL Equity 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, MIAX PEARL Equity 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 MIAX PEARL Equity 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 Exchange Traded Products] 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 Exchange Traded Products].”

A MIAX PEARL Equity 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 MIAX PEARL Equity Member under this rule. Upon request of a customer, MIAX PEARL Members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

### **Suitability**

Trading in the securities on the Exchange will be subject to the provisions of MIAX PEARL Rule 2107 and other applicable suitability rules. Equity Members recommending transactions in the securities to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer.

### **Trading Halts**

MIAX PEARL will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with MIAX PEARL Rules. The grounds for a halt under MIAX PEARL Rules include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the security and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, MIAX PEARL will stop trading the Shares of a security if the primary market de-lists the security.

### **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 Fund's 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).

### **Rule 10b-17 (Untimely Announcement of Record Dates)**

The SEC has granted an exemption from the requirements of Rule 10b-17 that will cover transactions in the Shares.

### **Section 11(d)(1); Rule 11d1-2 (Customer Margin)**

The SEC has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) that will permit broker-dealers that do not create Shares but engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in such Shares exclusively in the secondary market to extend or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on the Shares, in connection with such secondary market transactions. For broker-dealers that engage in the creation of Shares, the SEC has also taken a no-action position under Rule 11d1-2 that will cover the extension or maintenance or the arrangement for the extension or maintenance of credit on the Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days.



### **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 (Disclosure of Control and interest in Distributions)**

The SEC has taken a no-action position under Rule 15c1-5 that will permit a broker-dealer to execute transactions in Shares without disclosing any control relationship with an issuer of a component security. In addition, the SEC has taken a no-action position under Rule 15c1-6 that will permit a broker dealer to execute transactions in the Shares without disclosing its participation or interest in a primary or secondary distribution of a component security.

This Product Circular is not a statutory prospectus. MIAX PEARL Equity Members should consult the prospectus for a security and the security's website for relevant information.

Please direct product listing questions to MIAX PEARL Equities Listings at [Listings@MIAXOptions.com](mailto:Listings@MIAXOptions.com) or (609) 897-7308.

Please direct regulatory questions to the MIAX PEARL Regulatory Department at (609) 897-7309 or [Regulatory@MIAXOptions.com](mailto:Regulatory@MIAXOptions.com).