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## INFORMATION CIRCULAR: SPDR INDEX SHARES FUNDS

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

**FROM:** Nasdaq / BX / PHLX Listing Qualifications Department

**DATE:** October 22, 2015

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### EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND

### SYMBOL

### CUSIP #

SPDR MSCI China A Shares IMI ETF

XINA

78463X210

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FUND

The SPDR Index Shares Funds (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 SPDR MSCI China A Shares IMI ETF (the “Fund”). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as “Shares.”

In seeking to track the performance of the MSCI China A International IMI 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, State Street Global Advisors Asia Limited (the “Sub-Adviser”), the investment sub-adviser to the Fund, 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.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund generally invests substantially all, but at least 80%, of its total assets in the securities comprising the Index or in American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) or Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”) based on securities comprising the Index. In addition, under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of borrowings for investment purposes) in A Shares of Chinese issuers or in derivatives or other instruments that provide investment exposure to A Shares of Chinese issuers. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its assets in investments that are not included in the Index. While the Fund intends to invest primarily in A Shares, the Fund may also invest in futures contracts, swaps and other derivative instruments (not including non-deliverable forwards), and other affiliated and unaffiliated pooled investment vehicles, including foreign investment companies, that SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (“SSGA FM” or the “Adviser”) and/or the Sub-Adviser believes will help the Fund to achieve its investment objective. The Fund may also invest in other investments including but not limited to B shares of companies listed

on the Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges, H shares of companies incorporated in Mainland China and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, shares of Red Chip companies with controlling Chinese shareholders that are incorporated outside of Mainland China and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, shares of China-related companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, shares of P-Chips companies with controlling Chinese shareholders incorporated outside of Mainland China and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and ADRs or GDRs representing securities not in the Index. In addition, the Fund may invest in equity securities that are not included in the Index (including common stock, preferred stock, depositary receipts and shares of other investment companies), cash and cash equivalents or money market instruments, such as repurchase agreements and affiliated and unaffiliated money market funds.

The Index is a free-float adjusted, market capitalization weighted index (giving greater weight to larger companies, based on the value of securities available in the market) designed to capture large, mid and small cap representation across Chinese securities with A Share listings on the Shanghai or Shenzhen Stock Exchanges. The Index is comprised solely of A Shares and aims to capture approximately 99% of the investible Chinese domestic A Shares equity universe.

To be eligible for the Index, a security and its issuing company must meet certain size and capitalization requirements. In particular: (i) a company must have a full market capitalization within the range of the top 99% of the developed market equity universe, based on free-float adjusted market capitalization (for emerging market companies, the required full market capitalization is set at one half the corresponding level for developed market companies) and (ii) a security must have a free-float adjusted market capitalization equal to or greater than 50% of the smallest company identified above. In addition, the securities must meet the following liquidity requirements: (i) a three-month and twelve-month Annualized Traded Value Ratio of at least 15% and (ii) a three-month frequency of trading of at least 80%. "ST" and "\*ST" securities, which are shares of companies that have received delisting warning from the Shanghai or Shenzhen Stock Exchanges due to abnormal financial conditions, are not eligible for Index inclusion. The Index is reviewed quarterly and rebalanced quarterly. As of October 16, 2015, the Index was comprised of 1,795 securities.

A Shares are equity securities issued by companies incorporated in Mainland China and are denominated and currently traded in Renminbi ("RMB") on the Shanghai or Shenzhen Exchanges. Subject to minor exceptions, under current regulations in the People's Republic of China ("China" or the "PRC"), foreign investors, such as the Fund, can invest in A Shares only (i) through certain foreign institutional investors that have obtained a license and quota from the Chinese regulators and (ii) through the Hong Kong-Shanghai Stock Connect program, a program between the Shanghai Stock Exchange, the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited and Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited designed to permit mutual stock market access between Mainland China and Hong Kong ("Stock Connect"). The Fund invests in China A Shares through the Sub-Adviser, who is licensed as a Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor ("RQFII") from the China Securities Regulatory Commission ("CSRC") and has received an initial RQFII quota by China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange ("SAFE"). The Sub-Adviser, on behalf of the Fund, may invest RMB in A Shares and other permitted China securities listed on the Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges up to the specified RQFII quota. The Sub-Adviser may, but is not required to, apply for an increase of the initial RQFII quota subject to certain conditions, including the use of all or substantially all of the initial quota. There is no guarantee that an application for additional quota will be granted. If the Sub-Adviser's RQFII quota is or becomes inadequate to meet the investment needs of the Fund or if the Sub-Adviser is unable to maintain its RQFII status, the

Adviser and/or Sub-Adviser may seek to gain exposure to the A Shares market by investing in securities not included in the Index, futures contracts, swaps and other derivative instruments and other pooled investment vehicles, including foreign and/or affiliated funds, that provide exposure to the A Shares market until additional RQFII quota can be obtained. The Fund may also invest in China A Shares listed and traded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange through the Stock Connect program. Through the Stock Connect program, foreign investors, such as the Fund, can trade eligible China A Shares subject to trading limits and rules and regulations as may be issued from time to time. The Fund's investments in China A Shares through the Stock Connect program is limited by the aggregate investment quotas, including daily quotas, that limit total purchases and/or sales through the Stock Connect program. The Sub-Adviser may also utilize its license as a "Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor" ("QFII") on behalf of the Fund. To the extent the Sub-Adviser utilizes its QFII quota for investment by the Fund, the Fund's investment will be subject to significant restrictions regarding currency remittance into, and currency repatriation from, the PRC.

The Index is sponsored by Morgan Stanley Capital International 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.

Please read the Fund's prospectus for more information regarding its investment objectives.

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 50,000 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 of the Funds and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV per Share for the 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 Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the underlying Index, visit the Fund's website at [www.spdrs.com](http://www.spdrs.com).

#### **PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS IN CREATION UNIT SIZE**

NASDAQ members, BX members and PHLX 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 Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing the Fund's performance to not match the performance of the 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, equity securities risk, currency risk, foreign securities risk, emerging markets risk and geographic risk.

## EXCHANGE RULES APPLICABLE TO TRADING IN THE SHARES

Trading in the Shares on NASDAQ is on a UTP basis and is subject to NASDAQ equity trading rules. Trading of the Shares on BX is on a UTP basis and is subject to BX equity trading rules. Trading of the Shares on PHLX's PSX system is on a UTP basis and is subject to PHLX rules.

## TRADING HOURS

The values of each index underlying the Shares are disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds. The Shares will trade on NASDAQ between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET. The Shares will trade on BX between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. ET. The Shares will trade on PSX between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET. For trading during each market's pre-market and post-market sessions, market participants should note that additional risks may exist with respect to trading the Fund during these sessions, when the underlying index's values, intraday indicative value, or similar value may not be disseminated or calculated.

## DISSEMINATION OF FUND DATA

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

Fund Name	Listing Market	Trading Symbol	IOPV Symbol	NAV Symbol
SPDR MSCI China A Shares IMI ETF	NYSE Arca	XINA	XINA.IV	XINA.NV

## SUITABILITY

Trading in the Shares on NASDAQ will be subject to the provisions of NASDAQ Rule 2310. Trading in the Shares on BX will be subject to the provisions of BX Equity Rule 2310. Shares trading on PSX will be subject to the provisions of PHLX Rule 763. Members and member organizations recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the

“know your customer” obligation that is embedded in both the NASDAQ Conduct Rules and the BX Conduct Rules.

NASDAQ members, BX members and PHLX members and member organizations should also review NASD Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

### **TRADING HALTS**

NASDAQ will halt trading in the Shares of a Fund in accordance with NASDAQ Rule 4120. BX will halt trading in the Shares of a Fund in accordance with BX Equity Rule 4120. PHLX will halt trading in the Shares of a Fund in accordance with PHLX Rule 3100. The grounds for a halt under these rules include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the Fund, the value of its underlying index, or a similar value are not being disseminated as required, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, NASDAQ, BX and PHLX will also stop trading the Shares of a Fund if the primary market delists the Fund.

### **DELIVERY OF A PROSPECTUS**

NASDAQ members, BX members and PHLX members and member organizations 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 Funds 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 Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). For further information about the Fund, 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, NASDAQ Rules 5705 and 5740, BX Equity Rules 4420 and 4421, and PHLX Rule 803 require that members and member organizations, respectively, provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Trust for the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, members and member organizations 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 members or member organizations to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: “A circular describing the terms and characteristics of the Shares of the Fund has been prepared by the Trust and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing Shares of the

Fund. In addition, upon request you may obtain from your broker a prospectus for Shares of the Fund.”

Any NASDAQ, 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 NASDAQ members, BX members and PHLX members or member organizations under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, NASDAQ members, BX members and PHLX 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 Fund.

### **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.

### **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 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 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 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 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 the 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 the 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. NASDAQ members, BX members and PHLX members and member organizations should consult the Fund's prospectus and/or the Fund's website for relevant information.**

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Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- Will Slattery, Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8088
- NASDAQ / BX / PSX Market Sales, at 800.846.0477