

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-67682; File No. SR-NYSEArca-2012-82)

August 17, 2012

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Listing and Trading of FlexShares Ready Access Variable Income Fund under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act” or “Exchange Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that, on August 7, 2012, NYSE Arca, Inc. (“Exchange” or “NYSE Arca”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to list and trade the following under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600 (“Managed Fund Shares”): FlexShares Ready Access Variable Income Fund. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and

¹ 15 U.S.C.78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to list and trade the following Managed Fund Shares (“Shares”)³ under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600: FlexShares Ready Access Variable Income Fund (“Fund”).⁴ The Shares will be offered by FlexShares Trust (“Trust”), a statutory trust organized under the laws of Maryland and registered with the Commission as an open-end management investment company.⁵

The investment adviser to the Fund will be Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“Investment Adviser”). Foreside Fund Services, LLC will serve as the distributor for the Fund

³ A Managed Fund Share is a security that represents an interest in an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1) (“1940 Act”) organized as an open-end investment company or similar entity that invests in a portfolio of securities selected by its investment adviser consistent with its investment objectives and policies. In contrast, an open-end investment company that issues Investment Company Units, listed and traded on the Exchange under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3), seeks to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance of a specific foreign or domestic stock index, fixed income securities index, or combination thereof.

⁴ The Commission has previously approved the listing and trading on the Exchange of other actively managed funds under Rule 8.600. *See, e.g.*, Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 60981 (November 10, 2009), 74 FR 59594 (November 18, 2009) (SR-NYSEArca-2009-79) (order approving Exchange listing and trading of five fixed income funds of the PIMCO ETF Trust); 61365 (January 15, 2010), 75 FR 4124 (January 26, 2010) (SR-NYSEArca-2009-114) (order approving Exchange listing and trading of Grail McDonnell Fixed Income ETFs).

⁵ The Trust is registered under the 1940 Act. On June 28, 2012, the Trust filed with the Commission a post-effective amendment to Form N-1A under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a) (“1933 Act”) and the 1940 Act relating to the Fund (File Nos. 333-173967 and 811-22555) (“Registration Statement”). The description of the operation of the Trust and the Fund herein is based, in part, on the Registration Statement. In addition, the Commission has issued an order granting certain exemptive relief to the Trust under the 1940 Act. *See* Investment Company Act Release No. 30068 (May 22, 2012) (File No. 812-13868) (“Exemptive Order”).

(“Distributor”). J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. will serve as the administrator, custodian, and transfer agent for the Fund (“Transfer Agent”).

Commentary .06 to Rule 8.600 provides that, if the investment adviser to the investment company issuing Managed Fund Shares is affiliated with a broker-dealer, such investment adviser shall erect a “fire wall” between the investment adviser and the broker-dealer with respect to access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to such investment company portfolio.⁶ In addition, Commentary .06 further requires that personnel who make decisions on the open-end fund’s portfolio composition must be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material, non-public information regarding the open-end fund’s portfolio. The Investment Adviser is affiliated with a broker-dealer and has implemented a “fire wall” with respect to such broker-dealer regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the Fund’s portfolio. If a sub-adviser that is also affiliated with a broker-dealer is hired for the Fund, such sub-adviser will implement a fire wall with respect to such broker-dealer regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes

⁶ An investment adviser to an open-end fund is required to be registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”). As a result, the Investment Adviser and its related personnel are subject to the provisions of Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act relating to codes of ethics. This Rule requires investment advisers to adopt a code of ethics that reflects the fiduciary nature of the relationship to clients as well as compliance with other applicable securities laws. Accordingly, procedures designed to prevent the communication and misuse of non-public information by an investment adviser must be consistent with Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act. In addition, Rule 206(4)-7 under the Advisers Act makes it unlawful for an investment adviser to provide investment advice to clients unless such investment adviser has (i) adopted and implemented written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violation, by the investment adviser and its supervised persons, of the Advisers Act and the Commission rules adopted thereunder; (ii) implemented, at a minimum, an annual review regarding the adequacy of the policies and procedures established pursuant to subparagraph (i) above and the effectiveness of their implementation; and (iii) designated an individual (who is a supervised person) responsible for administering the policies and procedures adopted under subparagraph (i) above.

to the portfolio. In the event (a) the Investment Adviser or any sub-adviser becomes newly affiliated with a broker-dealer, or (b) any new manager, adviser, or sub-adviser becomes affiliated with a broker-dealer, it will implement a fire wall with respect to such broker-dealer regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio, and will be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material, non-public information regarding such portfolio.

The Fund will not be an index fund. The Fund will be actively managed and will not seek to replicate the performance of a specified index.

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund will seek maximum current income consistent with the preservation of capital and liquidity. The Fund will seek to achieve its investment objective by investing under normal circumstances⁷ at least 65% of its total assets in a non-diversified portfolio⁸ of fixed income instruments, including bonds, debt securities, and other similar instruments issued by U.S. and non-U.S. public and private sector entities.⁹ Such

⁷ The term “under normal circumstances” includes, but is not limited to, the absence of extreme volatility or trading halts in the fixed income markets or the financial markets generally; operational issues causing dissemination of inaccurate market information; or force majeure type events such as systems failure, natural or man-made disaster, act of God, armed conflict, act of terrorism, riot or labor disruption, or any similar intervening circumstance.

⁸ According to the Registration Statement, the Fund will be “non-diversified” under the 1940 Act and may invest more of its assets in fewer issuers than “diversified” funds. The diversification standard is set forth in Section 5(b)(1) of the 1940 Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-5(b)(1)).

⁹ According to the Registration Statement, “fixed income instruments” includes, but is not limited to: securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies, or government sponsored enterprises; corporate debt securities, including corporate commercial paper; mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities; inflation-indexed bonds issued both by governments and corporations; bank capital and trust preferred securities; fixed and variable rate loan participations and assignments; bank certificates of deposit, fixed time deposits and bankers’ acceptances; repurchase agreements on fixed income instruments; and reverse repurchase agreements on fixed income instruments.

issuers include, without limitation, U.S. and non-U.S. governments and their subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities, or sponsored enterprises, U.S. state and local governments, international agencies and supranational entities, and U.S. and non-U.S. private-sector entities, such as corporations and banks. The average portfolio duration¹⁰ of the Fund will vary based on The Northern Trust Company Investment Policy Committee's forecast for interest rates and will normally not exceed one year. The dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of the Fund is normally not expected to exceed two years.

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund will invest in debt securities that are, at the time of investment, rated within the top four rating categories by a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO") or of comparable quality as determined by the Investment Adviser.¹¹ Subsequent to its purchase by the Fund, a rated security may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below investment grade or a security may no longer be considered to be investment grade. In such case, the Fund is not required to dispose of the security. The Investment Adviser will determine what action, including potential sale, is in the best interest of the Fund.

The Fund may invest, without limitation, in fixed income instruments of foreign issuers in developed and emerging markets,¹² including, without limitation, debt securities of emerging-

¹⁰ According to the Registration Statement, duration measures the price sensitivity of a fixed-income security to changes in interest rates. Interest rate changes have a greater effect on the price of fixed-income securities with longer durations.

¹¹ In determining whether a security is of "comparable quality," the Investment Adviser may consider, for example, whether the issuer of the security has issued other rated securities, whether the obligations under the security are guaranteed by another entity and the rating of such guarantor (if any), whether and (if applicable) how the security is collateralized, other forms of credit enhancement (if any), the security's maturity date, liquidity features (if any), relevant cash flow(s), valuation features, other structural analysis, macroeconomic analysis, and sector or industry analysis.

¹² According to the Investment Adviser, while there is no universally accepted definition of

market foreign governments in the following regions: Asia and Pacific, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Within these regions, the Fund may invest in countries such as Brazil, Chile, China, Columbia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey, although this list may change as market developments occur and may include additional emerging market countries that conform to selected ratings, liquidity, and other criteria. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Fund will not invest more than 20% of its total assets in fixed income instruments of foreign issuers in emerging markets.¹³

Foreign debt securities include direct investments in non-U.S. dollar-denominated debt securities traded primarily outside of the United States and dollar-denominated debt securities of foreign issuers. The Fund will invest in non-U.S. corporate bonds that the Investment Adviser

what constitutes an “emerging market,” in general, emerging market countries are characterized by developing commercial and financial infrastructure with significant potential for economic growth and increased capital market participation by foreign investors. The Investment Adviser will look at a variety of commonly-used factors when determining whether a country is an “emerging” market. In general, the Investment Adviser will consider a country to be an emerging market if:

- (1) it is either (a) classified by the World Bank in the lower middle or upper middle income designation for one of the past 3 years (*i.e.*, per capita gross national product of less than U.S. \$9,385), or (b) classified by the World Bank as high income in each of the last three years, but with a currency that has been primarily traded on a non-delivered basis by offshore investors (*e.g.*, Korea and Taiwan);
- (2) the country’s debt market is considered relatively accessible by foreign investors in terms of capital flow and settlement considerations; and
- (3) the country has issued the equivalent of \$5 billion in local currency sovereign debt.

The criteria used to evaluate whether a country is an “emerging market” will change from time to time based on economic and other events.

¹³ The Fund may invest more than 25% of its total assets in fixed income securities and instruments of issuers in a single developed market country.

deems to be sufficiently liquid at the time of investment.¹⁴ Foreign government obligations may include debt obligations of supranational entities, including international organizations (such as the European Coal and Steel Community and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, also known as the World Bank) and international banking institutions and related government agencies. The Fund also may invest in foreign time deposits and other short-term instruments. The Fund may invest a portion of its assets in the obligations of foreign banks and foreign branches of domestic banks.

The Fund may invest, without limitation, in mortgage- or asset-backed securities, other structured securities, including collateralized mortgage obligations (“CMOs”), and also including to-be-announced transactions (or “TBA Transactions”).¹⁵ A TBA Transaction is a method of

¹⁴ The Fund will invest only in non-U.S. corporate bonds that the Investment Adviser deems to be sufficiently liquid at time of investment. Generally, a corporate bond must have \$200 million (or an equivalent value if denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars) or more par amount outstanding and significant par value traded to be considered as an eligible investment. Economic and other conditions may, from time to time, lead to a decrease in the average par amount outstanding of bond issuances. Therefore, although the Fund does not intend to do so, the Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in corporate bonds with less than \$200 million par amount outstanding, including up to 5% of its assets in corporate bonds with less than \$100 million par amount outstanding, if (i) the Investment Adviser deems such security to be sufficiently liquid based on its analysis of the market for such security (based on, for example, broker-dealer quotations or its analysis of the trading history of the security or the trading history of other securities issued by the issuer), (ii) such investment is consistent with the Fund’s goal of seeking maximum current income consistent with the preservation of capital and liquidity, and (iii) such investment is deemed by the Investment Adviser to be in the best interest of the Fund.

¹⁵ According to the Registration Statement, in addition to credit and market risk, asset-backed securities may involve prepayment risk because the underlying assets (loans) may be prepaid at any time. Prepayment (or call) risk is the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Fund (such as a mortgage-backed security) earlier than expected. This may happen during a period of declining interest rates. Under these circumstances, the Fund may be unable to recoup all of its initial investment and will suffer from having to reinvest in lower yielding securities. The loss of higher yielding securities and the reinvestment at lower interest rates can reduce the Fund’s income, total return, and share price. The value of these securities also may

trading mortgage-backed securities.¹⁶ However, the Fund will not invest more than 10% of its total assets in non-agency¹⁷ mortgage- or asset-backed securities.

The Fund may invest in variable and floating rate instruments. Variable and floating rate instruments have interest rates that periodically are adjusted either at set intervals or that float at a margin tied to a specified index rate. These instruments include variable amount master demand notes, long-term variable and floating rate bonds where the Fund obtains at the time of purchase the right to put the bond back to the issuer or a third party at par at a specified date, and leveraged inverse floating rate instruments (“inverse floaters”). Some variable and floating rate instruments have interest rates that periodically are adjusted as a result of changes in inflation rates.

According to the Registration Statement, because there is no active secondary market for certain variable and floating rate instruments, they may be more difficult to sell if the issuer defaults on its payment obligations or during periods when the Fund is not entitled to exercise its

change because of actual or perceived changes in the creditworthiness of the originator, the service agent, the financial institution providing the credit support, or the counterparty. Like other fixed-income securities, when interest rates rise, the value of an asset-backed security generally will decline. Credit supports generally apply only to a fraction of a security’s value. However, when interest rates decline, the value of an asset-backed security with prepayment features may not increase as much as that of other fixed-income securities. In addition, non-mortgage asset-backed securities involve certain risks not presented by mortgage-backed securities. Primarily, these securities do not have the benefit of the same security interest in the underlying collateral. If the issuer of the security has no security interest in the related collateral, there is the risk that the Fund could lose money if the issuer defaults.

¹⁶ In a TBA Transaction, the buyer and seller agree upon general trade parameters such as agency, settlement date, par amount, and price. The actual pools delivered generally are determined two days prior to the settlement date.

¹⁷ “Non-agency” securities are financial instruments that have been issued by an entity that is not a government-sponsored agency, such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”), Federal Home Loan Banks, or the Government National Mortgage Association (“Ginnie Mae”).

demand rights. In addition, variable and floating rate instruments are subject to changes in value based on changes in market interest rates or changes in the issuer's or guarantor's creditworthiness.

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund may borrow money and enter into reverse repurchase agreements in amounts not exceeding one-fourth of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed). To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with financial institutions such as banks and broker-dealers that are deemed to be creditworthy by the Investment Adviser and may invest a portion of its assets in custodial receipts.

Other Investments

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund may engage in forward foreign currency transactions for hedging purposes in order to protect against uncertainty in the level of future foreign currency exchange rates, to facilitate local settlements, or to protect against currency exposure in connection with its distributions to shareholders.¹⁸ The Fund, however, does not expect to engage in currency transactions for speculative purposes (e.g., for potential

¹⁸ According to the Registration Statement, liquid assets equal to the amount of the Fund's assets that could be required to consummate forward contracts will be segregated except to the extent the contracts are otherwise "covered." The segregated assets will be valued at market or fair value. If the market or fair value of such assets declines, additional liquid assets will be segregated daily so that the value of the segregated assets will equal the amount of such commitments by the Fund. A forward contract to sell a foreign currency is "covered" if the Fund owns the currency (or securities denominated in the currency) underlying the contract, or holds a forward contract (or call option) permitting the Fund to buy the same currency at a price that is (i) no higher than the Fund's price to sell the currency or (ii) greater than the Fund's price to sell the currency provided the Fund segregates liquid assets in the amount of the difference. A forward contract to buy a foreign currency is "covered" if the Fund holds a forward contract (or call option) permitting the Fund to sell the same currency at a price that is (i) as high as or higher than the Fund's price to buy the currency or (ii) lower than the Fund's price to buy the currency provided the Fund segregates liquid assets in the amount of the difference.

income or capital gain). A forward currency exchange contract is an obligation to exchange one currency for another on a future date at a specified exchange rate.

According to the Registration Statement, to the extent consistent with its investment policies, the Fund may hold up to 15% of its net assets in securities that are illiquid (calculated at the time of investment), including Rule 144A Securities and master demand notes.¹⁹ The aggregate value of all of the Fund's illiquid securities, Rule 144A Securities, master demand notes, fixed and variable rate loan participations and assignments, inverse floaters, and long-term variable and floating rate bonds where the Fund obtains at the time of purchase the right to put the bond back to the issuer or a third party at par at a specified date shall not exceed 15% of the Fund's total assets. The Fund will monitor its portfolio liquidity on an ongoing basis to determine whether, in light of current circumstances, an adequate level of liquidity is being maintained, and will consider taking appropriate steps in order to maintain adequate liquidity if, through a change in values, net assets, or other circumstances, more than 15% of the Fund's net assets are held in illiquid securities.

The Fund may purchase and sell securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment basis. The Fund also may, without limitation, seek to obtain market exposure to the

¹⁹ The Commission has stated that long-standing Commission guidelines have required open-end funds to hold no more than 15% of their net assets in illiquid securities and other illiquid assets. See Investment Company Act Release No. 28193 (March 11, 2008), footnote 34. See also Investment Company Act Release No. 5847 (October 21, 1969), 35 FR 19989 (December 31, 1970) (Statement Regarding "Restricted Securities"); Investment Company Act Release No. 18612 (March 12, 1992), 57 FR 9828 (March 20, 1992) (Revisions of Guidelines to Form N-1A). A fund's portfolio security is illiquid if it cannot be disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the value ascribed to it by the ETF. See Investment Company Act Release No. 14983 (March 12, 1986), 51 FR 9773 (March 21, 1986) (adopting amendments to Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act); Investment Company Act Release No. 17452 (April 23, 1990), 55 FR 17933 (April 30, 1990) (adopting Rule 144A under the 1933 Act).

securities in which it primarily invests by entering into a series of purchase and sale contracts (such as buy backs or mortgage dollar rolls).

The Fund may temporarily hold cash and cash-like instruments or invest in short-term obligations pending investment or to meet anticipated redemption requests. The Fund also may hold up to 100% of its total assets in cash or cash-like instruments or invest in short-term obligations as a temporary measure mainly designed to limit the Fund's losses in response to adverse market, economic, or other conditions. The Fund may not achieve its investment objective when it holds cash or cash-like instruments, or invests its assets in short-term obligations or otherwise makes temporary investments. The Fund also may miss investment opportunities and have a lower total return during these periods.

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund may not purchase or sell physical commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments.

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund may not concentrate its investments (i.e., invest 25% or more of its total assets in the securities of a particular industry or industry group).²⁰ For purposes of this limitation, securities of the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities), repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities, and securities of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered to be issued by members of any industry.

The Fund may invest in the securities of other investment companies. Such investments will be limited so that, as determined after a purchase is made, either: (a) not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such investment company will be owned by the Fund, the Trust as

²⁰ See Form N-1A, Item 9. The Commission has taken the position that a fund is concentrated if it invests more than 25% of the value of its total assets in any one industry. See, e.g., Investment Company Act Release No. 9011 (October 30, 1975), 40 FR 54241 (November 21, 1975).

a whole, and its affiliated persons (as defined in the 1940 Act); or (b) (i) not more than 5% of the value of the total assets of the Fund will be invested in the securities of any one investment company, (ii) not more than 10% of the value of its total assets will be invested in the aggregate securities of investment companies as a group, and (iii) not more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any one investment company will be owned by the Fund. These limits will not apply to the investment of uninvested cash balances in shares of registered or unregistered money market funds whether affiliated or unaffiliated. The foregoing exemption, however, only applies to an unregistered money market fund that (i) limits its investments to those in which a money market fund may invest under Rule 2a-7 of the 1940 Act, and (ii) undertakes to comply with all the other provisions of Rule 2a-7.

Investments by the Fund in other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”),²¹ will be subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act except as expressly permitted by Commission orders. The Fund also may invest in other types of U.S. exchange-traded products, such as Exchange-Traded Notes.²²

The Fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of Subtitle A, Chapter 1, of the Internal Revenue Code.²³

²¹ For purposes of this proposed rule change, ETFs are securities registered under the 1940 Act such as those listed and traded on the Exchange under NYSE Arca Equities Rules 5.2(j)(3), 8.100, and 8.600.

²² For purposes of this proposed rule change, Exchange Traded Notes are securities registered under the 1933 Act such as those listed and traded on the Exchange under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6).

²³ 26 U.S.C. 851. According to the Registration Statement, to qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Fund must meet three tests each year. First, the Fund must derive with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currencies, other income derived with respect to the Fund’s business of investing in stock, securities or currencies, or net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships. Second,

The Fund will not invest in any non-U.S registered equity securities. The Fund's investments will be consistent with the Fund's investment objective and will not be used to enhance leverage. That is, while the Fund will be permitted to borrow as permitted under the 1940 Act, the Fund's investments will not be used to seek performance that is the multiple or inverse multiple (i.e., 2Xs and 3Xs) of the Fund's benchmark (i.e., the Citigroup 3-Month Treasury Bill Index).

Consistent with the Exemptive Order, the Fund will not invest in options contracts, futures contracts, or swap agreements.

The Shares will conform to the initial and continued listing criteria under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600. Consistent with NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600(d)(2)(B)(ii), the Investment Adviser will implement and maintain, or be subject to, procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material, non-public information regarding the actual components of the Fund's portfolio. The Exchange represents that, for initial and/or continued listing, the Fund will be in compliance with Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act,²⁴ as provided by NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.3. A minimum of 100,000 Shares will be outstanding at the

generally, at the close of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, at least 50% of the value of the Fund's assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and securities of other issuers as to which (a) the Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of its total assets in securities of the issuer and (b) the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer, and no more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of (1) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies), (2) two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or (3) one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. Third, the Fund must distribute an amount equal to at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss), before taking into account any deduction for dividends paid, and 90% of its tax-exempt income, if any, for the year.

²⁴ 17 CFR 240.10A-3.

commencement of trading on the Exchange. The Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of the Shares that the net asset value (“NAV”)²⁵ per Share will be calculated daily and that the NAV and the Disclosed Portfolio, as defined in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600(c)(2), will be made available to all market participants at the same time.

Creations and Redemptions of Shares

According to the Registration Statement, prior to trading in the secondary market, Shares of the Fund will be “created” at NAV by authorized participants only in block-size “Creation Units” of 50,000 Shares or multiples thereof, provided, however, that from time to time the Fund may change the number of Shares (or multiples thereof) required for each Creation Unit, if the Fund determines that such change would be in the best interests of the Fund. A creation transaction, which is subject to acceptance by the Transfer Agent, generally will take place when an authorized participant deposits into the Fund cash and/or a designated portfolio of instruments approximating the holdings of the Fund in exchange for a specified number of Creation Units. Similarly, Shares can be redeemed only in Creation Units, for cash and/or in-kind for a portfolio of instruments held by the Fund (“Fund Securities”). Purchases and redemptions of Creation Units may be made in whole or in part on a cash basis, rather than in-kind, under certain circumstances.

Except when aggregated in Creation Units, Shares will not be redeemable by the Fund.

The prices at which creations and redemptions occur will be based on the next calculation of

²⁵ The NAV of the Fund is generally determined once daily Monday through Friday generally as of the regularly scheduled close of business of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time (“E.T.”)) on each day that the NYSE is open for trading. 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. For more information regarding the valuation of Fund investments in calculating the Fund’s NAV, see the Registration Statement.

NAV after an order is received in a form described in the authorized participant agreement.

With respect to the Fund, the Investment Adviser will make available through the National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”) prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., E.T.) on each business day, the Fund Securities that will be applicable (subject to possible correction) to redemption requests received in proper form on that day. Unless cash redemptions are specified for the Fund, the redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit will generally consist of the Fund Securities as announced by the Investment Adviser through the NSCC on the business day of the request for redemption, plus cash in an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the Shares being redeemed, as next determined after a receipt of a request in proper form, and the value of the Fund Securities, less the redemption transaction fee described in the Registration Statement (“Cash Redemption Amount”). In the event that the Fund Securities have a value greater than the NAV of the Fund Shares, a compensating cash payment equal to such difference will be required to be made by or through an authorized participant by the redeeming shareholder.

Additional information regarding the Trust, the Fund, and the Shares, including investment strategies, risks, creation and redemption procedures, fees, portfolio holdings, disclosure policies, distributions, and taxes is included in the Registration Statement. All terms relating to the Fund that are referred to but not defined in this proposed rule change are defined in the Registration Statement.

Availability of Information

The Trust’s website (www.flexshares.com), which will be publicly available prior to the public offering of Shares, will include a form of the prospectus for the Fund that may be downloaded. The Trust’s website will include additional quantitative information updated on a

daily basis, including, for the Fund, (1) daily trading volume, the prior business day's NAV, last reported closing price and the mid-point of the bid/ask spread at the time of calculation of such NAV ("Bid/Ask Price"),²⁶ and a calculation of the premium and discount of the Bid/Ask Price or closing price against the NAV (as appropriate), and (2) data in chart format displaying the frequency distribution of discounts and premiums of the daily Bid/Ask Price or closing price against the NAV, within appropriate ranges, for each of the four previous calendar quarters.

On each business day, before commencement of trading in Shares in the Core Trading Session (9:30 a.m., E.T. to 4:00 p.m., E.T.) on the Exchange, the Fund will disclose on www.flexshares.com the identities and quantities of the Fund's portfolio holdings that will form the basis for the Fund's calculation of NAV at the end of the business day.²⁷

On a daily basis, the Fund will disclose on www.flexshares.com for each portfolio security and other financial instrument of the Fund the following information: ticker symbol (if applicable), name of securities and financial instruments, number of shares or dollar value of securities and financial instruments held in the portfolio, and percentage weighting of the securities and financial instruments in the portfolio. The website information will be publicly available at no charge. In addition, price information for the debt securities, fixed income instruments, and other investments, including forwards and securities of other investment companies, held by the Fund will be available through major market data vendors and/or the securities exchange on which they are listed and traded.

²⁶ The Bid/Ask Price of the Fund will be determined using the midpoint of the highest bid and the lowest offer on the Exchange as of the time of calculation of the Fund's NAV. The records relating to Bid/Ask Prices will be retained by the Fund and its service providers.

²⁷ Under accounting procedures followed by the Fund, trades made on the prior business day ("T") will be booked and reflected in NAV on the current business day ("T+1"). Accordingly, the Fund will be able to disclose at the beginning of the business day the portfolio that will form the basis for the NAV calculation at the end of the business day.

In addition, a basket composition file, which includes the security names and share quantities, if applicable, required to be delivered in exchange for Fund Shares, together with estimates and actual cash components, will be publicly disseminated daily prior to the opening of the NYSE via the NSCC. The basket represents one Creation Unit of the Fund. The NAV of the Fund will normally be determined as of the close of the regular trading session on the NYSE (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., E.T.) on each business day.

Investors can also obtain the Trust's Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), the Fund's Shareholder Reports, and its Form N-CSR and Form N-SAR, filed twice a year. The Trust's SAI and Shareholder Reports are available free upon request from the Trust, and those documents and the Form N-CSR and Form N-SAR may be viewed on-screen or downloaded from the Commission's website at www.sec.gov. Information regarding market price and trading volume of the Shares will be continually available on a real-time basis throughout the day on brokers' computer screens and other electronic services. Information regarding the previous day's closing price and trading volume information for the Shares will be published daily in the financial section of newspapers. Quotation and last-sale information for the Shares will be available via the Consolidated Tape Association ("CTA") high-speed line.

In addition, the Portfolio Indicative Value, as defined in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600 (c)(3), will be widely disseminated by one or more major market data vendors at least every 15 seconds during the Core Trading Session.²⁸ The dissemination of the Portfolio Indicative Value, together with the Disclosed Portfolio, will allow investors to determine the value of the underlying portfolio of the Fund on a daily basis and will provide a close estimate of that value

²⁸ Currently, it is the Exchange's understanding that several major market data vendors display and/or make widely available Portfolio Indicative Values published on CTA or other data feeds.

throughout the trading day.

Trading Halts

With respect to trading halts, the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in the Shares of the Fund.²⁹ Trading in Shares of the Fund will be halted if the circuit breaker parameters in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 7.12 have been reached. Trading also may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. These may include: (1) the extent to which trading is not occurring in the securities and/or the financial instruments comprising the Disclosed Portfolio of the Fund; or (2) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present. Trading in the Shares will be subject to NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600(d)(2)(D), which sets forth circumstances under which Shares of the Fund may be halted.

Trading Rules

The Exchange deems the Shares to be equity securities, thus rendering trading in the Shares subject to the Exchange's existing rules governing the trading of equity securities. Shares will trade on the NYSE Arca Marketplace from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., E.T. in accordance with NYSE Arca Equities Rule 7.34 (Opening, Core, and Late Trading Sessions). The Exchange has appropriate rules to facilitate transactions in the Shares during all trading sessions. As provided in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 7.6, Commentary .03, the minimum price variation ("MPV") for quoting and entry of orders in equity securities traded on the NYSE Arca Marketplace is \$0.01, with the exception of securities that are priced less than \$1.00 for which the MPV for order entry is \$0.0001.

²⁹ See NYSE Arca Equities Rule 7.12, Commentary .04.

Surveillance

The Exchange intends to utilize its existing surveillance procedures applicable to derivative products (which include Managed Fund Shares) to monitor trading in the Shares. The Exchange represents that these procedures are adequate to properly monitor Exchange trading of the Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and applicable federal securities laws.

The Exchange's current trading surveillance focuses on detecting securities trading outside their normal patterns. When such situations are detected, surveillance analysis follows and investigations are opened, where appropriate, to review the behavior of all relevant parties for all relevant trading violations.

The Exchange may obtain information via the Intermarket Surveillance Group ("ISG") from other exchanges that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.³⁰

In addition, the Exchange also has a general policy prohibiting the distribution of material, non-public information by its employees.

Information Bulletin

Prior to the commencement of trading, the Exchange will inform its Equity Trading Permit Holders ("ETP Holders") in an Information Bulletin ("Bulletin") of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading the Shares. Specifically, the Bulletin will discuss the following: (1) the procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit aggregations (and that Shares are not individually redeemable); (2) NYSE Arca Equities

³⁰ For a list of the current members of ISG, see <http://www.isgportal.org>. The Exchange notes that not all components of the Disclosed Portfolio for the Fund may trade on markets that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.

Rule 9.2(a), which imposes a duty of due diligence on its ETP Holders to learn the essential facts relating to every customer prior to trading the Shares; (3) the risks involved in trading the Shares during the Opening and Late Trading Sessions when an updated Portfolio Indicative Value will not be calculated or publicly disseminated; (4) how information regarding the Portfolio Indicative Value is disseminated; (5) the requirement that ETP Holders deliver a prospectus to investors purchasing newly issued Shares prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction; and (6) trading information.

In addition, the Bulletin will reference that the Fund is subject to various fees and expenses described in the Registration Statement. The Bulletin will discuss any exemptive, no-action, and interpretive relief granted by the Commission from any rules under the Exchange Act. The Bulletin will also disclose that the NAV for the Shares will be calculated after 4:00 p.m., E.T. each trading day.

2. Statutory Basis

The basis under the Exchange Act for this proposed rule change is the requirement under Section 6(b)(5)³¹ that an exchange have rules that are designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices in that the Shares will be listed and traded on the Exchange pursuant to the initial and continued listing criteria in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600. The Exchange has in place surveillance procedures that are adequate to properly monitor trading in

³¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

the Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and applicable federal securities laws. The Exchange may obtain information via ISG from other exchanges that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has entered into a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund will invest under normal circumstances at least 65% of its total assets in a non-diversified portfolio of fixed income investments. The Fund will invest in debt securities that are considered to be investment grade at the time of investment. The Fund will not invest in options contracts, futures contracts, or swap agreements. The Fund will not invest in any non-U.S registered equity securities. The aggregate value of all of the Fund's illiquid securities, Rule 144A Securities, master demand notes, fixed and variable rate loan participations and assignments, inverse floaters, and long-term variable and floating rate bonds where the Fund obtains at the time of purchase the right to put the bond back to the issuer or a third party at par at a specified date shall not exceed 15% of the Fund's total assets. The Fund will invest only in non-U.S. corporate bonds that the Investment Adviser deems to be sufficiently liquid at time of investment. Generally, a corporate bond must have \$200 million (or an equivalent value if denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars) or more par amount outstanding and significant par value traded to be considered as an eligible investment. The Fund will not invest more than 20% of its total assets in fixed income instruments of foreign issuers in emerging markets. The Fund's investments will be consistent with the Fund's investment objective and will not be used to enhance leverage.

The proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and to protect investors and the public interest in that the Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of the Shares that the NAV per Share will be calculated daily and that the NAV

and the Disclosed Portfolio will be made available to all market participants at the same time. In addition, a large amount of information is publicly available regarding the Fund and the Shares, thereby promoting market transparency. Moreover, the Portfolio Indicative Value will be widely disseminated by one or more major market data vendors at least every 15 seconds during the Exchange's Core Trading Session. On each business day, before commencement of trading in Shares in the Core Trading Session on the Exchange, the Fund will disclose on its website the Disclosed Portfolio that will form the basis for the Fund's calculation of NAV at the end of the business day. Information regarding market price and trading volume of the Shares will be continually available on a real-time basis throughout the day on brokers' computer screens and other electronic services, and quotation and last-sale information will be available via the CTA high-speed line. Price information for the debt securities, fixed income instruments, and other investments, including forwards and securities of other investment companies, held by the Fund will be available through major market data vendors and/or the securities exchange on which they are listed and traded. The website for the Fund will include a form of the prospectus for the Fund and additional data relating to NAV and other applicable quantitative information. Moreover, prior to the commencement of trading, the Exchange will inform its ETP Holders in an Information Bulletin of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading the Shares. Trading in Shares of the Fund will be halted if the circuit breaker parameters in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 7.12 have been reached or because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable, and trading in the Shares will be subject to NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600(d)(2)(D), which sets forth circumstances under which Shares of the Fund may be halted. In addition, as noted above, investors will have ready access

to information regarding the Fund's holdings, the Portfolio Indicative Value, the Disclosed Portfolio, and quotation and last-sale information for the Shares.

The proposed rule change is designed to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest in that it will facilitate the listing and trading of an additional type of actively-managed exchange-traded product that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. As noted above, the Exchange has in place surveillance procedures relating to trading in the Shares and may obtain information via ISG from other exchanges that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has entered into a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. The Investment Adviser is affiliated with a broker-dealer and has implemented a "fire wall" with respect to such broker-dealer regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the Fund's portfolio. In addition, the Fund's Reporting Authority will implement and maintain, or be subject to, procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material, non-public information regarding the actual components of the Fund's portfolio.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds

such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NYSEArca-2012-82 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEArca-2012-82. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those

that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090, on official business days between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the NYSE's principal office and on its Internet website at www.nyse.com. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEArca-2012-82 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.³²

Elizabeth M. Murphy
Secretary

³² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).