

Verification of Workers Compensation/  
Public Disability Benefit Information.

The AA-1cert process obtains information from an applicant for either an age and service, or disability annuity by means of an interview with an RRB field-office representative. It obtains information about an applicant's marital history, work history, military service, benefits from other governmental agencies and railroad pensions. During the interview, the field-office representative enters the information obtained into an online information

system. Upon completion of the interview, the applicant receives Form AA-1cert, Application Summary and Certification, which summarizes the information that was provided by/or verified by the applicant, for review and signature. The RRB also uses a manual version, RRB Form AA-1, in instances where the RRB representative is unable to contact the applicant in-person or by telephone i.e., the applicant lives in another country.

Form AA-1d, Application for Determination of Employee Disability, is

completed by an employee who is filing for a disability annuity under the RRA, or a disability freeze under the Social Security Act for early Medicare based on a disability. Form G-204, Verification of Workers Compensation/  
Public Disability Benefit Information, is used to obtain and verify information concerning worker's compensation or public disability benefits that are or will be paid by a public agency to a disabled railroad employee.

The RRB estimates the burden for the collection as follows:

ESTIMATED BURDEN

Form	Estimated annual responses	Estimated completion time (per response)	Estimated annual burden hours (hours)
AA-1cert (with assistance)	13,300	30	6,650
AA-1 manual (without assistance)	100	62	103
AA-1d (manual without assistance)	50	60	50
AA-1d (manual) (with assistance)	5,600	35	3,296
G-204	50	15	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,100</b>		<b>10,112</b>

The RRB proposes no changes to Form AA-1cert, AA-1 and G-204. Minor non-burden impacting, editorial and formatting changes are proposed to Form AA-1d. Completion of an application is required to obtain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent.

*Additional Information or Comments:* To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Chuck Mierzwa,**

*Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-7307 Filed 3-26-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7905-01-M**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application of Banco Nacional De Comercio Exterior, S.N.C. to Withdraw its 7¼% Global Notes (due 2004) From Listing and Registration on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. File No. 1-11744**

March 21, 2003.

Banco Nacional De Comercio Exterior, S.N.C, a United Mexican States corporation ("Issuer"), has filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 12d2-2(d) thereunder,<sup>2</sup> to withdraw its 7¼% Global Notes (due 2004) ("Security"), from listing and registration on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or "Exchange").

On January 29, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Issuer approved a resolution to withdraw the Issuer's Security from listing on the NYSE. In making its decision to withdraw the Security from the Exchange, the Issuer states that: (i) The Security is not widely held and has a low trading volume; (ii) the Issuer is subject to administrative costs resulting solely from the listing of the Security, including those related to maintaining

the listing of the Security on the NYSE and complying with U.S. securities laws reporting requirements. Given the low trading volume of the Security, the Issuer believes that such costs are not justified. The Security is the only outstanding security the Issuer has listed on a national securities exchange.

The Issuer stated in its application that it has met the requirements of the NYSE rules governing an issuer's voluntary withdrawal of a security from listing and registration. The Issuer's application relates solely to the Security's withdrawal from listing on the NYSE and from registration under section 12(b) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and shall not affect its obligation to be registered under section 12(g) of the Act.<sup>4</sup>

Any interested person may, on or before April 16, 2003, submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609, facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of the NYSE and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. The Commission, based on the information submitted to it, will issue an order granting the application after the date mentioned above, unless the Commission determines to order a hearing on the matter.

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(d).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.12d2-2(d).

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(b).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(g).

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>5</sup>

**Jonathan G. Katz,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-7342 Filed 3-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 25969; 812-12932]

### iShares Trust, et al.; Notice of Application

March 21, 2003.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission")

**ACTION:** Notice of an application for an order under section 12(d)(1)(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and (B) and under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from section 17(a) of the Act.

**SUMMARY:** The order would permit certain registered management investment companies and unit investment trusts to acquire shares of other registered open-end management investment companies and unit investment trusts that operate as exchange-traded funds and are outside the same group of investment companies. The order also would amend a condition in two prior orders.

*Applicants:* iShares Trust ("Trust"), iShares, Inc. ("Corporation") and Barclays Global Fund Advisors ("BGFA").

**DATES:** The application was filed on February 26, 2003. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is reflected in this notice.

*Hearing or Notification of Hearing:* An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and servicing applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on April 14, 2003, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request

notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicants: Trust and Corporation, c/o Investors Bank & Trust Company, 200 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116; BGFA, 45 Fremont Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John L. Sullivan, Senior Counsel, and Michael W. Mundt, Senior Special Counsel, at (202) 942-0564 (Office of Investment Company Regulation, Division of Investment Management).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (tel. 202-942-8090).

#### Applicants' Representations

1. The Trust and the Corporation are open-end management investment companies registered under the Act and are comprised of separate series that seek to provide investment results that correspond generally to the performance of specified market indices and that operate as exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). BGFA is a registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") and serves as investment adviser to each existing iShares Fund (as defined below).

2. Applicants request relief to permit registered management investment companies and unit investment trusts to acquire shares of series of the Trust or the Corporation beyond the limitations in section 12(d)(1)(A) and (B). Applicants request that the relief apply to (i) each registered open-end management investment company or unit investment trust that operates as an ETF, is currently or subsequently part of the same "group of investment companies" as the Trust or the Corporation within the meaning of section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act, and is advised or sponsored by BGFA or an entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with BGFA (such open-end ETFs are referred to as "Open-End iShares Funds"; such unit investment trust ETFs are referred to as "UIT iShares Funds" Open-End iShares Funds and UIT iShares Funds are collectively referred to as "iShares Funds"),<sup>1</sup> as well as any broker-dealer selling shares of an iShares Fund to an Investing Fund (as defined below); and

(ii) each registered management investment company or unit investment trust that is not part of the same "group of investment companies" as the iShares Funds within the meaning of section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act and that enters into a participation agreement ("Participation Agreement") with an iShares Fund (such management investment companies are referred to as "Investing management Companies"; such unit investment trusts are referred to as "Investing Trusts," and Investing Management Companies and Investing trusts are collectively referred to as "Investing Funds").<sup>2</sup> Each Investing Management Company will be advised by an investment adviser that is registered under the Advisers Act or exempt from registration ("Advisor").

3. Applicants state that the iShares Funds will offer the Investing Funds simple and efficient vehicles to achieve their asset allocation, diversification and other investment objectives, and to implement various investment strategies. Among other purposes, applicants assert that the iShares Funds provide instant and highly liquid exposure to a broad range of markets, sectors or subsectors, geographic regions and industries, and permit investors to achieve such exposure through a single transaction instead of the many transactions that might otherwise be needed to obtain comparable market exposure.

#### Applicants' Legal Analysis

##### A. Section 12(d)(1)

1. Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act prohibits a registered investment company from acquiring shares of an investment company if the securities represent more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of the acquired company, more than 5% of the total assets of the acquiring company, or, together with the securities of any other investment companies, more than 10% of the total assets of the acquiring company. Section 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act prohibits a registered open-end investment company, its principal underwriter, or any broker or dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, from selling its shares to another investment company if the sale will cause the acquiring company to own more than 3% of the acquired company's voting stock, or if the sale will cause more than 10% of the

<sup>2</sup> All entities that currently intend to rely on the requested order are named as applicants. Any other entity that relies on the order in the future will comply with the terms and conditions of the application. An Investing Fund may rely on the requested order only to invest in iShares Funds and not in any other registered investment company.

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(1).

<sup>1</sup> All existing iShares Funds are open-end management investment companies.