# PRESS RELEASES

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## Ecolab Raises Dividend 14 Percent

ST. PAUL, Minn., December 16, 1996: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. increased the company's quarterly cash dividend by 14% to $0.16 per common share, to be paid January 15, 1997 to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 27, 1996. This results in a new indicated annual cash dividend of $0.64 per share. It is the fifth consecutive annual dividend rate increase.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on common stock for 60 consecutive years. Ecolab last declared a dividend increase in December 1995.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing and maintenance products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1995, Ecolab reported sales of $1.3 billion; including European joint venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab's global coverage exceeded $2.2 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Stock Exchange under the symbol ECL.

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