PRESS RELEASES

May 9, 1997

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 9, 1997: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.16 per common share, to be paid July 15, 1997 to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 17, 1997.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 60 consecutive years.

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, 1996, Ecolab reported sales of $1.5 billion; including European joint venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab's global sales coverage was $2.4 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

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