PRESS RELEASES

Apr 23, 1999

Ecolab Inc. Files Suit Against Supplier And Competitor

(ST. PAUL, MINN, April 23, 1999 -) Ecolab Inc., a leading supplier of premium cleaning and sanitizing products and systems, today announced that the company has filed suit against supplier Biotrace Inc. and Neogen Corporation for breach of an exclusive distribution agreement. Under the terms of the contract, Ecolab has the exclusive right to distribute Biotrace rapid sanitation testing equipment to customers in the food and beverage industry in North America. Ecolab alleges that Biotrace Inc. breached this agreement by adding a second distributor, Neogen Corporation, in Ecolab's exclusive territory.

William Mathison, General Manager of Ecolab Inc., Food & Beverage Division, commented: "This situation is causing confusion in the marketplace. Our primary concern is to ensure an uninterrupted and timely supply of Biotrace products to our customers."

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing and maintenance products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at http://www.ecolab.com and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

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