PRESS RELEASES

May 7, 2004

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 7, 2004--The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.08 per common share, to be paid July 15, 2004, to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 15, 2004.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 67 consecutive years.

With 2003 sales of $3.8 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products for the hospitality, foodservice, institutional and industrial markets. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ECL.

Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at www.ecolab.com.

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

Back to Press Releases