PRESS RELEASES

Aug 24, 2004

St. Paul-Based Ecolab Donates Products to Assist With American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Efforts

(St. Paul, MN - August 24, 2004) St. Paul-based Ecolab Inc. has donated 1,500 cases (108,000 bottles) of their antimicrobial hand washing products to the American Red Cross for disaster assistance efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley.

The product, known as Endure 300, is in the form of a gel and can be used in any location since it does not require water to sanitize the hands. It will be distributed to disaster victims and recovery workers by American Red Cross volunteers in Florida and associates working from the Distribution Center in Sarasota.

The National Center for Infectious Diseases recommends frequent washing of the hands as the best protection from spreading illness, and Endure 300 is a waterless antimicrobial hand rinse that kills germs within seconds.

"Ecolab is pleased to support relief efforts in Florida with our products that can assist in providing necessary sanitation in difficult circumstances. We wish all those affected by the hurricane well, and thank the relief agencies and workers for their help," said Douglas M. Baker, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ecolab Inc.

With sales of $3.8 billion, Ecolab is a global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, food service, 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.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of Hurricane Charley and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. Call 1-800-HELP NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting http://www.redcross.org.

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