PRESS RELEASES

Feb 15, 2006

Ecolab Wins International Award for Best Cleaning Innovation for Surface Sanitizer

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb 15, 2006 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc.'s innovative OASIS® 146 MULTI-QUAT SANITIZER, a no-rinse food contact hard surface sanitizer, recently won the 2005 North American Foodservice Grand Prix Award in the cleaning and chemical product category. The awards, presented in January at the Foodservice Interchange Conference in Toronto, Canada, identify and recognize innovative new products within the North American foodservice industry.

"A product such as Oasis 146 Multi-Quat Sanitizer is yet another way that we show our commitment to our customers and their operations, by creating innovative solutions that help address their needs," said Jim Chamberlain, vice president of Sales for Ecolab in North America.

Oasis 146 Multi-Quat Sanitizer is a unique new sanitizer for the foodservice industry that makes sanitation compliance easier to achieve, due to its expanded use-concentration range. This simplifies both training and use of the product, which aids customers in their programs to reduce foodborne illness and promote sanitization. One additional feature of the Oasis 146 Multi-Quat Sanitizer is that it is color-coded, making it instantly recognizable to the employee, assuring that they select the right product for the right job. This sanitizer kills 99.999% of foodborne organisms such as E. coli and Salmonella sp., as is required for food-contact hard surface sanitizers.

"We are excited and honored that Oasis 146 Multi-Quat Sanitizer has been recognized as the best new cleaning product for the foodservice industry by the North American Foodservice Grand Prix," said Denise Chandler, product line manager for the Institutional Division of Ecolab. "This product is a very important innovation because it helps protect our customers against health code violations and, just as important, helps reduce the spread of foodborne illness."

The Foodservice Grand Prix Awards are hosted annually by the International Foodservice Distributors Association and the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors. The competition is judged by a 10-person panel including operators, culinary experts, distributors and trade press journalists. The judging includes preparation and sampling of each product in a test kitchen and an analysis by the judging panel. Products are ranked upon uniqueness and innovation, product attributes, operator convenience and quality appeal. This is the second consecutive year that Ecolab has won the North American Foodservice Grand Prix Award in the cleaning and chemical product category. Ecolab's WASH 'N WALK® won the 2004 award.

With 2005 sales of $4.5 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, foodservice, healthcare 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 http://www.ecolab.com.

SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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