PRESS RELEASES

May 12, 2006

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 12, 2006--The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per common share, to be paid July 17, 2006, to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 20, 2006.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 69 consecutive years.

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

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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