PRESS RELEASES

Nov 12, 2006

Ecolab Clean Hands(TM) Program Helps Customers Polish up on Handwashing Compliance

ST. PAUL, Minn., Nov 12, 2006 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. today announced its new Clean Hands(TM) initiative to raise awareness of the importance of hand washing; promote staff compliance with CDC and FDA guidelines in the foodservice, hospitality and healthcare industries; and reduce the spread of infection from unclean hands. The program was announced today at the International Hotel/Motel & Restaurant Show being held in New York City, November 12-14, 2006.

"Each year, more than 76 million people are affected by foodborne illnesses, nearly half of which are due to poor hand hygiene," said Colleen Dillon, vice president of hospitality and healthcare marketing at Ecolab. "We are committed to helping our customers improve the health and safety of their organizations by providing the tools they need to educate staff regarding effective hand hygiene."

Available now to all Ecolab customers at no charge, the Clean Hands(TM) awareness and compliance tools include a manager training guide, posters for sinks and employee areas, as well as forms that employers can use to gain employees' agreement to meet hand hygiene standards. These materials, which also include a hand washing timer that rings an alarm after 15 seconds of washing, can be used in customers' facilities as friendly, encouraging reminders for employees. They are designed to make hand washing compliance a natural part of every employee's daily routine.

The Clean Hands initiative is a new component of Ecolab's 360(degree) of Protection(TM) program, which helps businesses identify critical risk factors that could result in health code violations. Customers can learn more about the Clean Hands program by contacting Ecolab at 1-800-35-CLEAN.

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.

(ECL-P)

SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

Ecolab Inc.
Kara Wallace, 651-293-4221

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