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## PRESS RELEASES

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Dec 3, 2009

### Ecolab Raises Cash Dividend 11 Percent

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec 03, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today increased the company's quarterly cash dividend by 11% to \$0.155 per common share, to be paid January 15, 2010, to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 15, 2009. This results in a new indicated annual cash dividend of a record \$0.62 per share for 2010, and represents Ecolab's 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual dividend rate increase.

Commenting on the increase, Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer commented, saying, "We continued our record of consecutive annual cash dividend increases, reflecting our expected attractive 2009 pro forma earnings performance, good cash flows and solid balance sheet. Ecolab remains a strong company with a strong future, and this action reflects our equally strong commitment to improving shareholder returns."

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 73 consecutive years. Ecolab last increased its dividend in December 2008.

With sales of \$6 billion and more than 26,000 associates, Ecolab (NYSE: ECL) is the global leader in cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention products and services. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to the foodservice, food and beverage processing, healthcare, and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. More news and information is available at [www.ecolab.com](http://www.ecolab.com).

(ECL-D)

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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