Sonoco Board Declares Regular Dividend

April 16, 2003

HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 16 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco's (NYSE: SON) board of directors today declared a regular dividend of $.21 per share. This 312th consecutive quarterly dividend will be payable June 10, 2003, to shareholders of record as of May 16, 2003.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO)

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.8 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 locations in 32 countries, serving customers in 85 nations. For more information about the Company, visit the Sonoco Web site at www.sonoco.com.

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