

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Communications

EDITOR CONTACT:

Linda Barlow, Kapnek

215-830-9890 / [Linda@kapnek.com](mailto:Linda@kapnek.com)

## **New Zep Biofilm Drain Purge Attacks Harmful Microorganisms**

### ***First Biocide Approved by EPA to Attack Biofilms in Drains and Trunk Lines***

ATLANTA (January 28, 2009) – The food industry now has a way to attack the Biofilm that harbors Listeria, E. coli, Salmonella and other resistant microorganisms in hard-to-reach drain and trunk lines. New Zep Biofilm Drain Purge effectively cleans organic debris from drains and piping, killing harmful bacteria that cause odors and illness.

Drains and trunk lines have been shown to be a breeding ground for resistant pathogens such as Listeria, E.coli and Salmonella, which form protective biofilms in wet environments. In fact, a 2004 audit of food processing facilities by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service reported that 27.8 percent of floors and drains sampled tested positive for Listeria.

“The USDA recommends that processors work with sanitation suppliers to develop a sound floor and drain sanitation program,” explains Blaine Morton, director of marketing and business development, Food, Zep Inc.. “Zep’s new Biofilm Drain Purge is the newest part of Zep’s complete

food sanitation program, designed to ensure a safe, contamination-free food operation.”

### Eliminating Biofilms

The problem with biofilms is that they tend to persist in damp areas, allowing pathogens in drains and trunk lines to become resistant to chemical and heat treatment. Without removing the biofilm matrix, it is impossible to kill pathogens.

Zep Biofilm Drain Purge has advantages over typical drain cleaners such as enzymatic cleaners, drain openers and quat-based sanitizers that do not have EPA approval to kill biofilm and are ineffective against typical pathogens in biofilms. It attacks the biofilm, penetrating and removing it while acting as a bactericide, slimicide and algicide.

Zep Biofilm Drain Purge is easy to use. It may be applied as a foam or a liquid and is “self-scrubbing” when activated, eliminating the need to manually scrub surfaces, thus reducing labor. It is available in 5 gallon and 55 gallon drums. Zep also supplies manual and air-operated foamers to apply the product.

### Food Safety & Sanitation

Zep Inc. is one of the top suppliers of cleaning and maintenance solutions in the food processing industry. The company serves food manufacturers, processors, restaurants, institutional food service operators, grocers and food retailers with a range of products to keep these operations in compliance with the highest food safety standards.

In addition to the new Zep Biofilm Drain Purge, the company has recently launched its ProVisions™ line of Kitchen Auxiliary and Automated

Ware Wash products, which, along with the company's GreenLink™ line of environmentally preferred products, offers greener cleaning options for the industry.

For more information on the new Zep Biofilm Drain Purge or to learn more about Zep's complete range of sanitation solutions for the food industry, visit [www.zep.com](http://www.zep.com) or call 1-877-I-BUY-ZEP (1-877-428-9937).

#### About Zep Inc.

Zep Inc. (NYSE: ZEP), with fiscal year 2008 net sales of more than \$574 million, is a leading producer, marketer, and service provider of a wide range of cleaning and maintenance solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional, and consumer end-markets. Zep's product portfolio includes anti-bacterial and industrial hand care products, cleaners, degreasers, deodorizers, disinfectants, floor finishes, sanitizers, and pest and weed control products. The Company markets these products and services under well recognized and established brand names, such as Zep®, Zep Commercial®, Zep® Professional, Enforcer®, National Chemical® and Selig™, some of which have been in existence for more than 70 years. Zep's headquarters are in Atlanta, Georgia. Visit the company's website at [www.zepinc.com](http://www.zepinc.com).

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