

ABSTRACT

ESTER SYNTHESIS

This invention relates to a process for the production of lower aliphatic esters by bringing together in an addition reaction a lower olefin and a saturated, lower aliphatic, mono-carboxylic acid in the vapour phase into contact with a heteropolyacid catalyst characterised in that the reactant olefin and acids and any recycled feeds are rendered substantially free of aldehydes impurities prior to being brought into contact with the heteropolyacid catalyst. Acetaldehyde is a catalyst poison and removal of these from the feeds prolongs the life and activity of the heteropolyacid catalyst.

No fig.