Distillation of ethylene oxide

Abstract

A process for distilling ethylene oxide out of a mixture comprising ethylene oxide in a column at an absolute pressure of from 2 to 10 bar and a temperature of 20 to 180°C by withdrawing pure ethylene oxide in the liquid or gaseous state overhead or via a sidestream in the rectifying section of the column comprises effecting the distillation in a column having on its inside a plurality of successive zones of structured sheet-metal packing or dumped beds of packing elements, these zones being assigned one or more extinguishing systems on the outside of the column.