

A B S T R A C T

PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF METHACRYLATE ESTERS

The invention relates to a continuous process for the preparation of methacrylate esters, wherein a mixture of C₃-hydrocarbons is drawn off from an oil or gas processing operation, a propyne stream is isolated from said C₃-mixture, and said propyne stream is fed to a carbonylation unit and contacted therein with carbon monoxide and an alcohol in the presence of a carbonylation catalyst to form a methacrylate ester, wherein at least part of the propyne stream and an alcohol feed stream is supplied to a storage facility, from which a combined propyne/alcohol feed is continuously withdrawn and introduced into the carbonylation unit.