

CLAIMS

1. A method for removing organic acid from a rich MEG stream (21), the method comprising stripping the organic acid from the rich MEG stream (21) by contacting the rich MEG stream (21) with a gas (23) in a MEG/organic acid stripping column (25), wherein the rich MEG stream (29) exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25) substantially free of the organic acid and the gas (27) exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25) containing organic acid stripped from the rich MEG stream (21).

2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising stripping the organic acid contained in the gas (27) that exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25) by contacting the gas (27) with a caustic solution (41) when in a gas/organic acid stripping column (30), wherein the gas (31) exits the gas/organic acid stripping column (30) substantially free of the organic acid and a waste stream (35) exits the gas/organic acid stripping column (30) containing organic acid stripped from the gas and a portion of the caustic solution (41).

3. The method according to claim 2 further comprising recycling a portion (33) of the gas (31) exiting the gas/organic acid stripping column (30) for use in the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25).

4. The method according to claim 2 further comprising recycling a portion (37) of the waste stream (35) back to the gas/organic acid column (30).

5. The method according to claim 2 wherein the caustic solution (41) is a sodium hydroxide solution comprising about 1% sodium hydroxide.

6. The method according to claim 1 further comprising adjusting, when needed, the pH of the rich MEG stream (21) to a $\text{pH} < 4$.

7. A method for removing organic acid from a rich MEG stream (21), the organic acid being a carboxylic acid, the method comprising the steps of:

stripping the organic acid from the rich MEG stream (21) by contacting the rich MEG stream (21) with a gas (23) in a MEG/organic acid stripping column (25), wherein the rich MEG stream (29) exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25) substantially free of the organic acid and the gas (27) exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25) containing organic acid stripped from the rich MEG stream (21);

stripping the organic acid contained in the gas (27) that exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25) by contacting the gas (27) with a caustic solution (41) when in a gas/organic acid stripping column (30), wherein the gas (31) exits the gas/organic acid stripping column (30) substantially free of the organic acid and a waste stream (35) exits the gas/organic acid stripping column (30) containing organic acid stripped from the gas and a portion of the caustic solution (41).

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the carboxylic acid has no more than 4 carbon atoms.

9. The method according to claim 7 further comprising recycling a portion (33) of the gas (31) exiting the gas/organic acid stripping column (30) for use in the MEG/organic acid stripping column (25).

10. The method according to claim 7 further comprising recycling a portion (37) of the waste stream (35) back to the gas/organic acid stripping column (30).

11. The method according to claim 7 wherein the caustic solution (41) is a sodium hydroxide solution comprising about 1% sodium hydroxide.

12. The method according to claim 7 further comprising adjusting, when needed, the pH of the rich MEG stream (21) to a pH < 4.

13. A method for removing acid from a rich MEG stream (21), the method comprising stripping the acid from the rich MEG stream (21) by contacting the rich MEG stream (21) with a gas (23) in a MEG acid stripping column (25), wherein the rich MEG stream (29) exits the MEG acid stripping column (25) substantially free of the acid and the gas (27) exits the MEG acid stripping column (25) containing acid stripped from the rich MEG stream (21).

14. The method according to claim 13 further comprising stripping the acid contained in the gas (27) that exits the MEG acid stripping column (25) by contacting the gas (27) with a caustic solution (41) when in a gas acid stripping column (30), wherein the gas (31) exits the gas acid stripping column (30) substantially free of the acid and a waste stream (35) exits the gas acid stripping column (30) containing acid stripped from the gas and a portion of the caustic solution (41).

15. The method according to claim 13 wherein the acid is an organic acid.