

ABSTRACT**METHOD FOR TREATING PHENOL**

The present invention relates to a continuous method for treating a crude phenol stream comprising methylbenzofuran and hydroxyacetone by passing the crude phenol stream through at least two reactors connected in series the reactors containing an acidic ion exchange resin, whereby the temperature in successive reactors decreases in flow direction of the phenol stream so that the temperature in the first reactor in flow direction of the phenol stream is between 100°C and 200°C and the temperature in the last reactor in flow direction of the phenol stream is between 50°C and 90°C without a thermal separation step between any of two successive reactors and to the use of this method in a process for making phenol.

FIGURE 1