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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP98/04695 (22) International Filing Date: 27 July 1998 (27.07.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/911,972 15 August 1997 (15.08.97) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except MN): ARCO CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY, L.P. [US/US]; Two Greenville Crossing, Suite 238, 4001 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE 19807 (US). (71) Applicant (for MN only): ARCO CHEMIE TECHNOLOGIE NEDERLAND B.V. [NL/NL]; Theemsweg 14, P.O. Box 7195, NL-3000 HD Rotterdam (NL). (72) Inventors: RUETER, Michael, A.; 350 Maiden Lane, Norristown, PA 19401 (US). JUBIN, John, C., Jr.; 144 Summit House, West Chester, PA 19382 (US). (74) Agent: SMAGGASGALE, Gillian, Helen; Mathys & Squire, 100 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8AL (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: PURIFICATION OF A METHANOL STREAM (57) Abstract Acetaldehyde may be effectively removed from a contaminated methanol stream using a distillation method wherein a solvent stream comprised of a relatively heavy polar compound such as water or propylene glycol is utilized as an extractive distillation solvent. Following the separation of the polar compound from the bottoms stream obtained by extractive distillation, the purified methanol may be recycled for use as a reaction solvent in an olefin epoxidation process.		