

Abstract**Synthesis of methacrylic acid from methacrolein-based alkyl methacrylate**

The present invention relates to a process for preparing alkyl methacrylates, especially MMA, and methacrylic acid, based on methacrolein, which has been oxidatively esterified in a second process
5 stage. Methacrolein is obtainable in principle from C₂ and C₄ units. The present process has the advantage that the alkyl methacrylate and methacrylic acid can be obtained in a simple manner, in high yields and high purities, either as a mixture or as isolated product streams. In particular, the process of the invention has the great advantage that especially the ratio of the desired methacrylic acid and alkyl methacrylate, especially MMA, products can be adjusted freely within a wide range
10 and varied by chemical engineering measures and operating parameters.
(No drawing to be published)