

A B S T R A C T

A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ISOPARAFFINS

A process for the production of isoparaaffins having 4 to 7 carbon atoms per molecule from synthesis gas comprising the following steps:

- a) Synthesis of a heavy paraffins-containing hydrocarbon mixture over a Fischer-Tropsch catalyst;
- b) Conversion of at least part of the heavy paraffins-containing hydrocarbon mixture over a bi-functional isomerization/hydrocracking catalyst under isomerization/hydrocracking conditions;
- c) Separation of normal paraffins from at least part of the isoparaaffins-containing product of step (b);
- d) Recycling at least part of the normal paraffins to step (b) and withdrawing C₄-C₇ isoparaaffins as a product from the process.

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