



(51) International Patent Classification:

C10G 29/00 (2006.01) *C08L 95/00* (2006.01)
C10C 3/00 (2006.01) *C07C 7/00* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2010/060000

(22) International Filing Date:

13 December 2010 (13.12.2010)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

12/638,365 15 December 2009 (15.12.2009) US

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(81) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

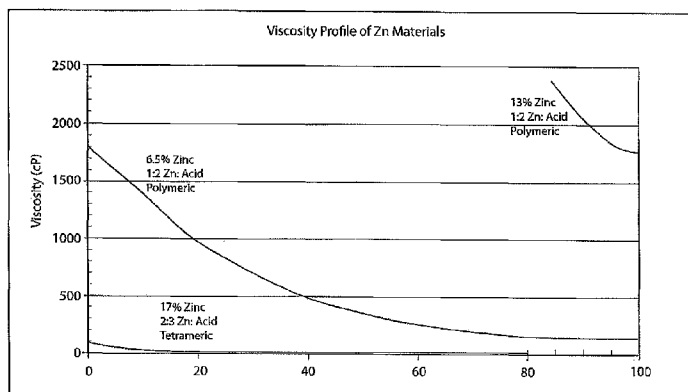
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

- without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))

(54) **Title**: IMPROVED METHOD OF REMOVING HYDROGEN SULPHIDE

FIGURE 1

(57) **Abstract**: The invention provides a method of removing sulfides from viscous petroleum streams such as asphalt, crude oil, and oil slurry using zinc octoate in which the molar ratio of zinc complexed with octanoic acid is not 1:2. Because zinc has a +2 charge and carboxylic acid has a -1 charge, it was previously assumed that all zinc octoates must have a 1:2 ratio of zinc moieties to carboxylic acid. Zinc octoate formulations however, that contain a non 1:2 ratio, and those with 2.1:3 to 1.97:3 in particular, have in fact been shown to work better. In addition, these non 1:2 formulations have lower viscosity and therefore are easier to use than the previous formulations including a 1:2 ratio.