

Process and apparatus for preparing vinyl acetate monomer

Abstract:

The invention provides a process for preparing vinyl acetate monomer (VAM) by reacting ethylene with acetic acid and oxygen in a tube bundle reactor in a heterogeneously catalysed, continuous gas phase process, characterized in that a high-performance catalyst with a space-time yield of more than 700 g of VAM/l of catalyst x hour is used for catalysis, and in that the tube bundle reactor comprises tubes with a ratio of inner surface area to volume of $\geq 130 \text{ m}^{-1}$.