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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C07C 67/343, 67/58, 69/54, 51/353, 57/04	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/02480 (43) International Publication Date: 21 January 1999 (21.01.99)
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/02026

(22) International Filing Date: 10 July 1998 (10.07.98)

(30) Priority Data:
9714540.3 11 July 1997 (11.07.97) GB(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): IMPERIAL
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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, US, 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

With international search report.

SG 9906496-C

(54) Title: TREATMENT OF FORMALDEHYDE-CONTAINING MIXTURES

(57) Abstract

A process for the removal of formaldehyde species from a liquid carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid ester stream which forms a two-phase mixture with water is disclosed which comprises the step of subjecting the liquid organic mixture to at least one liquid liquid extraction stage wherein water is used as an extractant to produce an organic phase stream which is substantially formaldehyde free and an aqueous phase stream which contains substantially all of the formaldehyde in the output streams from the liquid liquid extraction. The process is particularly useful for reducing the formaldehyde content of a methyl methacrylate product stream.

