A B S T R A C T

CONTINUOUS PROCESS FOR THE CARBONYLATION OF ACETYLENES

The invention relates to a continuous process for the carbonylation of an acetylenically unsaturated compound by reaction with carbon monoxide and a nucleophilic compound having a mobile hydrogen atom in the presence of a carbonylation catalyst, which process comprises the steps of: charging said carbonylation catalyst to a reaction zone; supplying a fresh feed containing said acetylenically unsaturated compound, said nucleophilic compound as well as carbon monoxide to said reaction zone; passing the feed through the reaction zone under carbonylating conditions of pressure and temperature such that a degree of conversion, based on the acetylenically unsaturated compound, of at least 80% is effected; separating a stream containing unreacted acetylenically unsaturated compound from the effluent of the reaction zone; and recycling the unreacted acetylenically unsaturated compound content of said separated stream to the reaction zone.

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