PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ACETIC ACID

ABSTRACT

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In a process for the production of acetic acid by carbonylation of methanol and/or a reactive derivative in the presence of a Group VIII noble metal carbonylation catalyst, methyl iodide co-catalyst at a concentration of at least 2 wt%, optionally at least one promoter at least a finite concentration of water, methyl acetate at a concentration of at least 8% w/w and acetic acid product, the separability of an upper (aqueous) layer and a lower (organic) layer in the decanter of the light ends column is achieved by maintaining the concentration of acetic acid in the condensed overhead vapour fraction passed to the decanter at or below 8 wt%.

No figure