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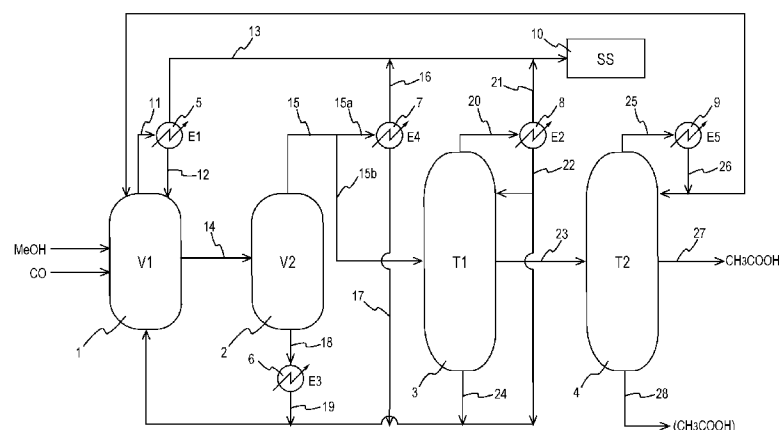
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ACETIC ACID

[Fig. 1]



(57) Abstract: A production process of acetic acid comprises a reaction step for continuously allowing at least one member selected from the group consisting of methanol, dimethyl ether, and methyl acetate to react with carbon monoxide in a catalyst system comprising a rhodium catalyst, an iodide salt, and methyl iodide in the presence of acetic acid and water in a reactor 1; a flash evaporation step for continuously feeding a flasher 2 with a liquid reaction medium withdrawn from the reactor 1 to separate a liquid stream and a vaporized stream from the liquid reaction medium; and a distillation step for feeding a distillation column 3 with the vaporized stream for obtaining a purified acetic acid; wherein part of the vaporized stream is introduced into a heat exchanger 7 for condensation, and a liquefied stream condensed by the heat exchanger 7 is recycled to the reactor. The process achieves a production of acetic acid with a high purity in a resource-saving and energy-saving equipment by efficiently removing a reaction heat even in a large-sized plant.



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