

ABSTRACT

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ACETIC ACID

Acetic acid is produced while efficiently inhibiting condensation of hydrogen iodide in a distillation column (second distillation column) for  
5 purifying crude acetic acid by further distillation.

A process for producing acetic acid comprises an acetic acid collection step for feeding a first distillation column with a volatile component at least  
10 containing acetic acid, methyl acetate, methyl iodide, water, and hydrogen iodide, separating a first lower boiling point component as an overhead, and collecting a first liquid stream mainly containing acetic acid, and an acetic acid purification step for feeding a second  
15 distillation column with the first liquid stream, further separating a second lower boiling point component as an overhead, and collecting a second liquid stream containing acetic acid, wherein an alkali component is added or mixed to the first liquid stream in the manners (1) and/or (2)  
20 for distilling a liquid object to be treated containing the first liquid stream and the alkali component in the second column: (1) the alkali component is added to or mixed with the first liquid stream before the first liquid stream is fed to the second column, (2) in the second column,  
25 the alkali component is added or mixed at the same height level as or at a height level upper than a height level at which the first liquid stream is fed.

Fig. 1