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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PURIFICATION OF PHENYLENEDIAMINES

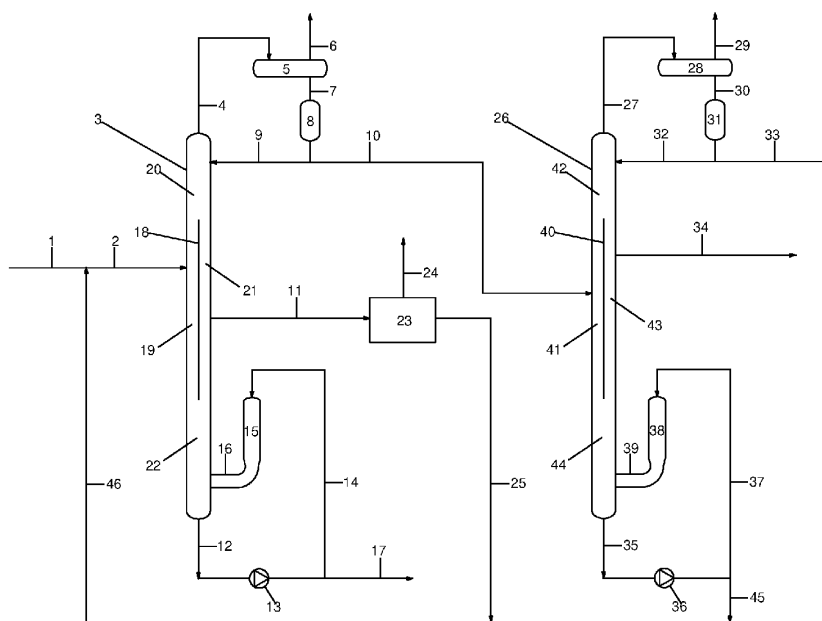


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an improved process for separating p-phenylenediamine from a mixture containing o-phenylenediamine, aminobiphenyls and diphenylamine by means of distillation coupled with crystallization, wherein the distillation system consists of two divided wall columns and the crystallization comprises at least one stage suspension-based melt crystallization. A liquid fraction enriched in p-phenylenediamine obtained as the side-draw of the first divided wall column is sent to the subsequent suspension-based melt crystallization to produce substantially pure p-phenylenediamine. The overhead product of the first divided wall column is fed to the second divided wall column to produce highly pure o-phenylenediamine withdrawn from the side-draw of the second divided wall column.

[Continued on next page]

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