

Abstract

A method is disclosed for the production of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butyronitrile, in which 3-methylmercapto-propionaldehyde is reacted with hydrogen cyanide in the
5 presence of a base as catalyst in a main reaction zone to form the nitrile and residual amounts of gaseous hydrogen cyanide which leave the main reaction zone are absorbed in an absorption and post-reaction zone containing a mixture of 3-methylmercaptopropionaldehyde and catalyst and
10 optionally 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butyronitrile and are further reacted.