

## ABSTRACT

REMOVAL OF CARBONYL IMPURITIES FROM A  
CARBONYLATION PROCESS STREAM

A method is provided to improve the quality of recycle of certain residues by modifying the separation of alkanes and alkane-like materials and carbonyl-containing impurities from the recycle during the manufacture of acetic acid by the carbonylation of methanol. The improvement comprises operating a prior art stripper column in a reflux manner and partitioning the residue therefrom by the addition of water. The method also reduces the volume of disposal of potentially valuable recyclable reactants.

(figure 1)