CLAIMS

1. A process for refining a glyceride oil to obtain a fraction enriched in triglyceride, the process comprising:

passing a glyceride oil through a size exclusion column packed with porous particles having a mass weighted mean particle size of 20 μm to 1,000 μm and an average pore size of 10 Å to 150 Å to remove partial glyceride without using any solvent; and

collecting an eluate fraction enriched in triglyceride;

wherein the partial glyceride content of the triglyceride enriched fraction expressed in wt. % is at least 50% lower than the partial glyceride content of the glyceride oil.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the glyceride oil contains 80 wt% to 99.8 wt% of triglyceride and ~~1~~ 0.2 wt% to 20 wt% of partial glyceride.

3. The process according to claim 2, wherein the partial glyceride is selected from the group consisting of monoglyceride, diglyceride, glycerophospholipid and a combination thereof.

4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the glyceride oil contains 90 wt% to 99.8 wt% of triglyceride, 0.2 wt% to 7.0 wt% of diglycerides, 0 wt% to 3 wt% of monoglycerides and 0 wt% to 4 wt % of glycerophospholipids.

5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the fraction enriched in triglyceride contains at least 98 wt% of triglyceride and less than 2 wt% of partial glyceride.

6. The process according to claim 1, further comprising:

passing a solvent through the size exclusion column after the eluate fraction enriched in triglyceride is collected to obtain a solvent extract containing a partial glyceride enriched fraction; and

isolating the partial glyceride enriched fraction from the solvent extract.

7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the partial glyceride enriched fraction is selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, glycerophospholipids and a combination thereof.

8. The process according to claim 6, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, C_5-C_8 alkanes and combinations thereof.

9. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the glyceride oil contains phosphorous in an amount of not more than 10 mg/kg.

10. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the glyceride oil is selected from the group consisting of a non-hydrogenated vegetable oil, a fraction of a non-hydrogenated vegetable oil and a combination of two or more of the said oils.

11. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least 80 wt% of the porous particles having a diameter in the range of 60 to 800 µm.

12. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the porous particles having a surface area of 200 to 1200 m^2/g.

13. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the porous particles having pore size in the range of 35 to 90 Å.

14. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the porous particles are selected from the group consisting of porous silica particles, porous cross-linked polystyrene particles and combination thereof.

15. The process according to claim 14, wherein the porous particles are porous silica particles.

16. A triglyceride oil that is obtained as the triglyceride enriched eluate fraction from a process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the glyceride oil that is used as the starting material in the process is selected from non-hydrogenated vegetable oil, a fraction of such an oil or a combination of two or more of these oils, and said vegetable oil being selected from palm oil, palm kernel oil, coconut oil, sunflower oil, soybean oil, rapeseed oil, linseed oil, olive oil and combinations thereof, and wherein the triglyceride enriched eluate fraction comprises at least 99.7 wt% of triglyceride and less than ~~1.0~~0.3 wt% of diglyceride.

~~17. Triglyceride oil according to claim 16, wherein the triglyceride oil contains at least 99.7 wt% of triglyceride and less than 0.3 wt% of diglyceride.~~

~~18~~17. Triglyceride oil according to claim ~~17~~16, wherein the triglyceride oil contains at least 99.9 wt% of triglyceride and less than 0.1 wt% of diglyceride.