

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
26 June 2025 (26.06.2025)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2025/136764 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07C 67/055 (2006.01) C07C 67/54 (2006.01)
C07C 69/15 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2024/059571

(22) International Filing Date:

11 December 2024 (11.12.2024)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

63/612,766 20 December 2023 (20.12.2023) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, CV, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING VINYL ACETATE MONOMER

(57) Abstract: A process for producing vinyl acetate monomer comprises feeding a reactor an inlet stream comprising ethylene, acetic acid, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. The ethylene, acetic acid, and oxygen are reacted in the presence of a palladium containing catalyst to produce a product stream comprising vinyl acetate monomer, ethylene, acetic acid, water, and carbon dioxide. The product stream is passed through a flash separator to provide a vapor stream comprising carbon dioxide and ethylene and a liquid stream comprising acetic acid and vinyl acetate monomer. At least a portion of the vapor stream is recycled to the inlet stream feeding the reactor so that the amount of ethylene entering the reactor in the inlet stream ranges from greater than 50 mol% to 65 mol% based on the total amount of ethylene, acetic acid, oxygen, and carbon dioxide entering the reactor. The vinyl acetate monomer is recovered from the liquid stream.



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