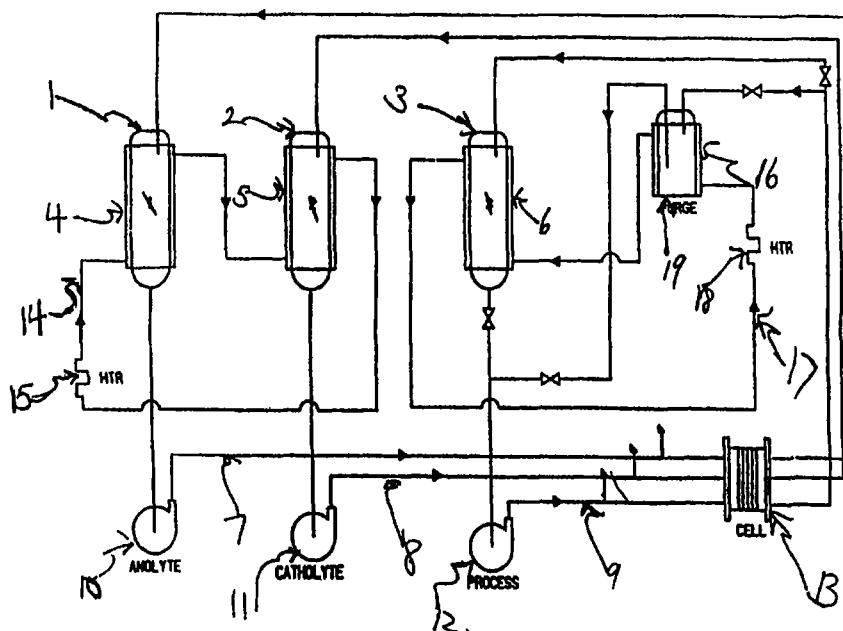


**PCT**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : C07C 51/02, 65/03, 65/10, 65/11, B01D 61/44	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/01653 (43) International Publication Date: 13 January 2000 (13.01.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/15305 (22) International Filing Date: 7 July 1999 (07.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/091,885 7 July 1998 (07.07.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SAMUELS, Michael, Robert [US/US]; 5116 New Kent Road, Wilmington, DE 19808 (US). YABROFF, Ronald, M. [US/US]; 607 Wynyard Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 (US). (74) Agent: SHAY, Lucas, K.; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Legal Patent Records Center, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).  *162162*		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GD, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>  *G00002*

(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE ISOLATION OF AROMATIC HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACIDS**(57) Abstract**

Processes are provided for the electrodiagnosis of a (di)alkali metal salt of an aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid to produce a free aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid and the alkali metal hydroxide, in the presence of a selected alkali metal salt. These various embodiments represent efficient and economical methods for recovering the alkali metal hydroxide, as well as the parent organic compound, from these dialkali metal salts. These processes also desirably prevent overvoltage during the electrodiagnosis.