

use above the tubesheet, the sieve openings are at least partially located within the volume between the loading template and the upper tubesheet.

8. A catalyst loading tray according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the sieve openings are sized to prevent passage of a particle having a dimension at least about 0.2 of an upper, inner diameter of the filler sleeve.
9. A catalyst loading tray according to any of claims 6 to 8 wherein the filler sleeve is removable from the catalyst loading opening.
10. A catalyst loading tray according to any of claims 6 to 9 wherein the engagement portion of the filler sleeve is an upper flange and the catalyst loading opening is provided with a shoulder for engaging said upper flange.
11. A catalyst loading tray according to any of the preceding claims wherein a vibrator is provided for vibrating the catalyst loading template, and preferably wherein the at least one support is resilient to damp vibration, and preferably comprises rubber.
12. A catalyst loading tray according to any of the preceding claims wherein an upstanding wall is provided along at least a part of the periphery of the array of catalyst loading openings.
- ~~13. A catalyst filler sleeve comprising:
a tubular sleeve open at upper and lower ends;
an upper engagement portion suitable for engagement with a catalyst loading opening of a catalyst loading tray whereby the filler sleeve can extend downwardly from the catalyst loading opening; wherein
the tubular sleeve is provided with sieve openings sized to prevent passage of particulate catalyst but to allow passage of dust.~~
- ~~14. A catalyst filler sleeve according to claim 13 wherein the sieve openings are disposed to be at least partially located within the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the tubular sleeve, preferably the upper $\frac{1}{8}$.~~
- ~~15. A catalyst filler sleeve according to any of claims 13 to 14 wherein the sieve openings are sized to prevent passage of a particle having a dimension at least about 0.2 of an upper, inner diameter of the filler sleeve.~~

~~16. A catalyst filler sleeve according to any of claims 13 to 15 wherein the engagement portion of the filler sleeve is a flange.~~

~~17.13.~~ A method of loading particulate catalyst into a catalytic reactor comprising an upper tubesheet and an array of reaction tubes extending downward from the tubesheet, comprising the steps of:

- a. disposing a catalyst loading tray according to any of claims 1 to 12 above the reaction tubes of the catalytic reactor so that the catalyst loading openings align with openings of the reaction tubes;
- b. supplying the particulate catalyst material to the array of the catalyst loading openings such that the particulate catalyst material passes through the catalyst loading openings and the reactor tube openings;
- c. applying a vacuum via the vacuum outlet for at least part of the duration of step b, preferably for the substantial duration of step b, and more preferably also prior to and/or subsequent to step b; and
- d. removing the catalyst loading tray from the catalytic reactor.

~~18.14.~~ A method of loading particulate catalyst into a catalytic reactor according to claim ~~17.13~~ including vibrating the catalyst loading template during at least part of step b, and preferably also during at least part of step d.

~~19. A kit of parts comprising:~~

- ~~a. at least one catalyst loading tray according to any of claims 1 to 5; and~~
- ~~a plurality of catalyst filler sleeves according to claims 13 to 16.~~