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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STARTUP PROCEDURES FOR IONIC LIQUID CATALYZED HYDROCARBON CONVERSION PROCESSES

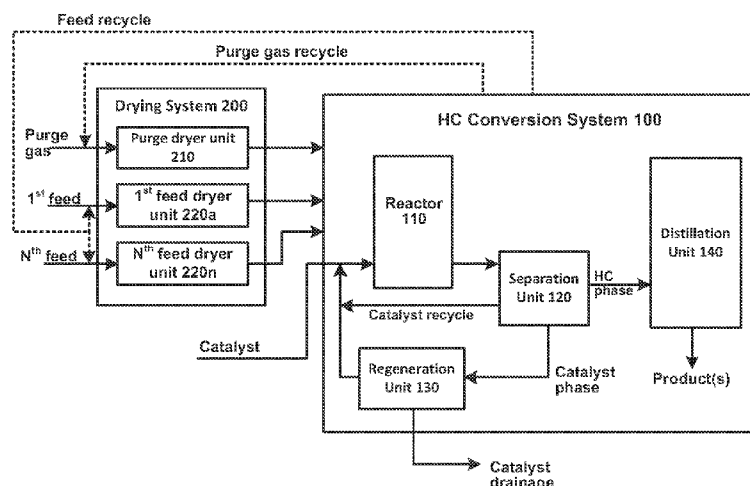


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Methods for starting and operating ionic liquid catalyzed hydrocarbon conversion processes and systems to provide maximum process efficiency, system reliability and equipment longevity may include: purging air and free water from at least a portion of the system; introducing at least one reactant into the at least a portion of the system; and re-circulating the at least one reactant through the at least a portion of the system, via at least one feed dryer unit, until the at least one reactant exiting the at least a portion of the system has a water content at or below a threshold value, prior to the introduction of an ionic liquid catalyst and/or additional reactant(s) and feeds into the system.





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