

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 March 2001 (22.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/19772 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07C 67/08, 67/54, 69/54 (74) Agents: SPIERING, M., Susan et al.; Celanese Ltd., 1901 Clarkwood Road, Corpus Christi, TX 78409 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/22573 (81) Designated States (*national*): AU, BR, CA, CN, CZ, ID, IN, JP, KR, MX, RU, SG, ZA.
- (22) International Filing Date: 17 August 2000 (17.08.2000) (84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 09/395,410 14 September 1999 (14.09.1999) US
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Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PURIFICATION OF N-BUTYL ACRYLATE

(57) Abstract: A process for the production of n-butyl acrylate (BuAcA) including the steps of esterifying acrylic acid (HAcA) with n-butanol (n-BuOH) in a reaction zone, obtaining a condensate from the overhead vapors from the reaction zone which separates into organic and aqueous phases, feeding the organic phase comprising a major of BuAcA and minor portions of BuOH, water and light ends impurities to a finishing fractionation zone from which is obtained a side stream of a finished high purity BuAcA and an overhead condensate comprising BuAcA, BuOH, water and light ends, recycling most of the overhead condensate from the finishing zone to the reaction zone, feeding the remainder of such condensate to a purge recovery zone, obtaining an overhead condensate from the purge recovery zone which separates into organic and aqueous phases each containing a portion of light ends produced in the reaction, recycling a portion of the organic phase as reflux to the purge recovery zone and discarding the remainder. The entire aqueous phase of the overhead condensate of the purge recovery zone is discarded. The discarding of a portion of the organic phase and the entire aqueous phase of the overhead condensate of the purge recovery zone has the effect of preventing or retarding the buildup of light ends in the system.

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