Claims

1. Method for producing 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butyronitrile, in which 3-methylmercaptopropionaldehyde is reacted with hydrogen cyanide in the presence of a base as catalyst in a main reaction zone to form the nitrile and residual amounts of gaseous hydrogen cyanide which leave the main reaction zone are absorbed in an absorption and post-reaction zone comprising a device for contacting a gas with a liquid and containing a mixture of 3-methylmercaptopropionaldehyde and catalyst and optionally 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butyronitrile and are further reacted.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the mixture contained in the absorption and post-reaction zone originates at least partially from the main reaction zone.

3. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the main reaction zone contains a stirred reactor or loop reactor.

4. Method according to claim 3, characterized in that the main reaction zone additionally contains a jet pump.

5. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the ~~absorption and post-reaction zone contains a~~ device for contacting a gas with a liquid is~~, preferably~~ a column, in particular a tray column, a packed-bed column, a bubble-column reactor, a droplet column or optionally a reactor having a mechanically agitated container, a submerged jet reactor or a jet pump.