ABSTRACT

IMPROVED PROCESS FOR PURIFYING ACRYLIC ACID

Process for purifying acrylic acid in order to remove the polymer-type impurities in those places in the distillation columns in which they have a tendency to accumulate, and more particularly a process directed towards removing the polymeric impurities which are formed during a step for removing the aldehyde impurities from acrylic acid, according to which step the medium containing the acrylic acid to be purified is distilled by adding to this medium at least one amino compound of hydrazine type and by flushing away, at the foot of the distillation column, the heavy compounds formed by the said hydrazine-type amino compound(s) with the impurities.

According to the invention, the acrylic acid to be purified is also distilled in the presence of at least one compound from the class of nonionic surface agents and of at least one polymerization inhibitor. Polysaccharide ethers and acetates, in particular ethers derived from cellulose or starch, may be mentioned as nonionic surface agents.