

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a gas stream in a tailgas treating process, the method comprising:
contacting the gas stream with a catalyst that was previously used in a hydrotreating process and that has been reactivated by a reactivation process prior to contacting the gas stream in the tailgas treating process, wherein the gas stream comprises one or more sulfur-containing species selected from the group consisting of elemental sulfur (S_x), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbonyl sulfide (COS), and carbon disulfide (CS_2), and wherein contacting the gas stream with the reactivated catalyst in the presence of hydrogen (H_2) converts the one or more sulfur-containing species to hydrogen sulfide (H_2S).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrotreating process is selected from the group consisting of petroleum hydrotreating processes, hydrodesulfurization (HDS), hydrodenitrogenation (HDN), hydrogenation, hydrodemetallization (HDM), naphtha hydrotreating (NHT), diesel hydrotreating (DHT), kerosene hydrotreating (KHT), jet fuel hydrotreating (JHT), atmospheric gas oil hydrotreating, vacuum gas oil (VGO) hydrotreating, and fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) feed hydrotreating.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises one or more Group VIIIIB metals and one or more Group VIB metals supported on an inorganic oxide carrier material.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises cobalt and molybdenum supported on aluminum oxide.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises nickel and molybdenum supported on aluminum oxide.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactivation process comprises regeneration.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the regeneration comprises heating the catalyst in an oxygen-containing atmosphere at a temperature of 300 to 500 °C for a time of 30 minutes or more.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein prior to the regeneration treatment, hydrocarbons are removed from the catalyst by solvent extraction or by contacting the catalyst with steam, natural gas combustion products, hydrogen or nitrogen at a temperature of 150 to 550 °C.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactivation process comprises rejuvenation.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the rejuvenation comprises impregnating the catalyst with a solution containing a chelating agent and drying the catalyst at a temperature of 50°C to 300°C.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the chelating agent is an organic acid.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactivated catalyst is pre-sulfurized prior to contacting the gas stream in the tailgas treating process.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactivated catalyst is pre-sulfided prior to contacting the gas stream in the tailgas treating process.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactivated catalyst is resized, reshaped, and/or reformulated prior to contacting the gas stream in the tailgas treating process.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the reactivated catalyst is resized by length grading the catalyst.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the resizing, reshaping, and/or reformulating comprises milling the reactivated catalyst to a fine powder and then reforming the reactivated catalyst.
17. The method of claim 14, wherein the reactivated catalyst is resized from having a diameter of 1.3 to 2.5 mm to having a diameter of 3 to 5 mm.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the gas stream with the reactivated catalyst comprises combining the reactivated catalyst with a second catalyst, wherein the second catalyst provides a lower pressure drop than the reactivated catalyst.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the gas stream with the reactivated catalyst comprises short loading the reactivated catalyst.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactivated catalyst exhibits a pressure drop of 0.05 to 0.20 psi/ft, when sock-loaded and tested at 100 ft/min superficial velocity in ambient air.
21. A method of forming a reactivated catalyst for a tailgas treating process, the method comprising:
obtaining a spent catalyst from a hydrotreating process, and
reactivating the catalyst to form the reactivated catalyst, wherein
the reactivated catalyst, when contacted with a gas stream comprising one or more sulfur-containing species selected from the group consisting of elemental sulfur (S_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbonyl sulfide (COS), and carbon disulfide (CS₂), is capable of catalyzing the conversion of the one or more sulfur-containing species to hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) in the presence of hydrogen (H₂).
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the hydrotreating process is selected from the group consisting of petroleum hydrotreating processes, hydrodesulfurization (HDS), hydrodenitrogenation (HDN), hydrogenation, hydrodemetallization (HDM), naphtha hydrotreating (NHT), diesel hydrotreating (DHT), kerosene hydrotreating (KHT), jet fuel hydrotreating (JHT), atmospheric gas oil hydrotreating, vacuum gas oil (VGO) hydrotreating, and fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) feed hydrotreating.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the spent catalyst comprises:
an inorganic oxide support material having a surface area of 20 to 600 m²/g, one or more Group VIII B metals, and one or more Group VI B metals supported on the inorganic oxide support material.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the catalyst comprises cobalt and molybdenum supported on aluminum oxide.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein the catalyst comprises nickel and molybdenum supported on aluminum oxide.
26. The method of claim 21, wherein the reactivating comprises regeneration.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the regeneration comprises heating the catalyst in an oxygen-containing atmosphere at a temperature of 300 to 500 °C for a time of 30 minutes or more.
28. The method of claim 26, wherein, prior to the regeneration, removing hydrocarbons from the catalyst by solvent extraction or by contacting the catalyst with steam, natural gas combustion products, hydrogen or nitrogen at a temperature of 150 to 550 °C.
29. The method of claim 21, wherein the reactivating comprises rejuvenation.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein the rejuvenation comprises impregnating the catalyst with a solution containing a chelating agent and drying the catalyst at a temperature of 50°C to 300°C.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein the chelating agent is an organic acid.
32. The method of claim 21, further comprising pre-sulfurizing the reactivated catalyst.
33. The method of claim 21, further comprising pre-sulfiding the reactivated catalyst.
34. The method of claim 21, further comprising resizing, reshaping, and/or reformulating the reactivated catalyst.
35. The method of claim 21, further comprising milling the reactivated catalyst to a fine powder and then reforming the reactivated catalyst.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the spent catalyst, prior to reactivating, has a diameter of 1.3 to 2.5 mm and the reformed reactivated catalyst has a diameter of 3 to 5 mm.

37. The method of claim 21, wherein the spent catalyst, as used in the hydrotreating process, exhibits a pressure drop of 0.20 to 0.80 psi/ft, and wherein the method further comprises resizing, reshaping, and/or reformulating the reactivated catalyst so that the reactivated catalyst exhibits a pressure drop of 0.05 to 0.20 psi/ft, when sock-loaded and tested at 100 ft/min superficial velocity in ambient air.