ABSTRACT

METHOD OF PURIFYING PROPYLENE OXIDE

A method of purifying propylene oxide containing methyl formate as an impurity, which comprises subjecting the propylene oxide to be purified to extractive distillation using a C_{7-10} hydrocarbon as an extractant, adding water to the distillate from the top of the extractive distillation column where the extractive distillation is conducted, conducing oil/water separation, and recycling the oil layer separated to the extractive distillation column and removing the separated aqueous layer from the system to thereby obtain propylene oxide reduced in methyl formate concentration as bottoms from the extractive distillation column.

Figure 1