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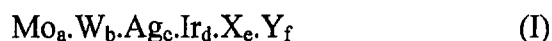


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ABSTRACT

CATALYST AND PROCESS FOR THE OXIDATION OF ETHANE AND/OR ETHYLENE

A catalyst composition comprising in combination with oxygen the elements : -



wherein X is the elements Nb and V;

Y is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of :

Cr, Mn, Ta, Ti, B, Al, Ga, In, Pt, Zn, Cd, Bi, Ce, Co, Rh, Cu, Au, Fe, Ru, Os, K, Rb, Cs, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zr, Hf, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Si, Sn, Tl, U, Re and Pd;

a, b, c, d, e and f represent the gram atom ratios of the elements such that

$$0 < a \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq b < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad a + b = 1;$$

$$0 < (c + d) \leq 0.1;$$

$$0 < e \leq 2; \text{ and}$$

$$0 \leq f \leq 2.$$

The catalyst composition may be used in the production of acetic acid and in an integrated process for the production of acetic acid and/or vinyl acetate.