

PROCESS FOR REMOVING TRACE QUANTITIES OF METALS  
FROM HYDROCARBON FRACTIONS BY ADSORPTION

ABSTRACT

There is provided a process with which trace amounts of metals, in particular mercury, can be efficiently removed from hydrocarbon fractions regardless of the form in which the metals are present.

There is provided a process for the removal of metals present in trace amounts in hydrocarbon fractions, comprising a combination of hydrogenation treatment and adsorption treatment, wherein the hydrocarbon fraction containing trace amounts of metals, in particular mercury, is subjected to hydrogenation and then contacted with a porous carbon material. In particular, it is a process for the removal of trace amounts of metal, in which the hydrogenated hydrocarbon fraction is subjected to distillation, and a light fraction distilled off at a cut temperature of 100°C or less is contacted with a porous carbon material, preferably an activated carbon having a particular pore structure. According to this process, trace amounts of metal can be almost completely removed over a long period of time regardless of the form in which they are present.

