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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/01724 (22) International Filing Date: 1 June 1999 (01.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 9812083.5 5 June 1998 (05.06.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES PLC [GB/GB]; Imperial Chem- ical House, Millbank, London SW1P 3JF (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): PARTEN, William, David [GB/GB]; Northolme, Tamebridge, Stokesley, North York- shire TS9 5LQ (GB). (74) Agents: GIBSON, Sara, Hillary, Margaret et al.; ICI Group Intellectual Property, P.O. Box 90, Wilton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS90 8JE (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: DEWATERING PROCESS (57) Abstract A process for separating a formaldehyde-containing product from a formalin solution comprising formaldehyde, water and methanol, wherein said formaldehyde-containing product contains substantially less water than said formalin solution, comprising distilling said formalin solution in the presence of a water entraining compound, especially methyl propionate or methyl methacrylate. The formaldehyde-containing product is suitable for use in a further process which requires a source of formaldehyde containing a relatively low level of water. One example of such a process is the reaction of methyl propionate with formaldehyde and methanol over a catalyst to produce methyl methacrylate.		



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