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(71) Applicant: **BP CHEMICALS LIMITED** [GB/GB];
Chertsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames Middlesex TW16 7BP
(GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(71) Applicant (for US only): **BRISTOW, Timothy Crispin**
[GB/GB]; Saltend, Hedon, Hull East Yorkshire HU12 8DS
(GB).

(74) Agent: **BROOKE, CARON ET AL BP INTERNA-
TIONAL LIMITED**; Global Patents & Technology Law,

Chertsey Road, Sunbury on Thames Middlesex TW16 7LN
(GB).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PURIFYING METHYL ACETATE MIXTURES

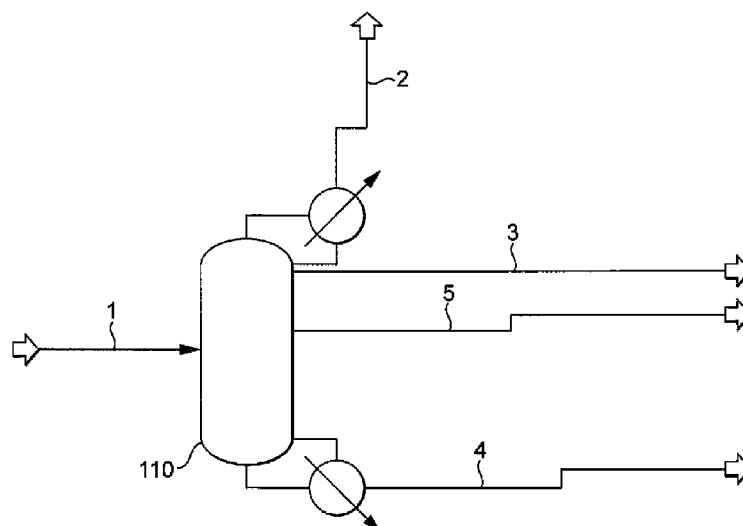


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A process for removing acetaldehyde from a mixture of methyl acetate, dimethyl ether and acetaldehyde comprising distilling mixtures derived from carbonylating dimethyl ether in the presence of a zeolite catalyst to generate an overhead stream depleted in acetaldehyde as compared to the feed mixture, a base stream depleted in acetaldehyde as compared to the feed mixture and a sidedraw stream enriched in acetaldehyde as compared to the feed mixture and withdrawing from the column the sidedraw stream enriched in acetaldehyde at a point above the feed point of the feed mixture to the column. Purified mixtures may be utilised as feed-stock to processes for the co-production of acetic acid and dimethyl ether.



**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
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