CLAIMS

1. A process for treating an organic feed comprising:

subjecting the organic feed stream containing at least one organic acid compound into a column, wherein the column comprises a vertical countercurrent liquid-liquid extraction zone being operated at an operating condition so long as the liquid phase condition in the column is maintained;

removing an organic product stream from an upper portion of the column, wherein the organic product stream having a reduced level of organic acid relative to the feed stream;

withdrawing water and salt from the bottom of the column; and

introducing the organic product stream contains 0.2wt% to 0.5wt% to a hydrogenation zone.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the organic feed comprises cumene and alpha-methylstyrene.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein said organic acid compound is phenol.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the salt is sodium phenate.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein the organic product stream contains 10 wt ppm to 200 wt ppm dissolved water.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein the organic product is a mixture comprising 75 wt% to 90wt% cumene and alpha-methylstyrene.

7. The process of claim 1, wherein the organic product stream contains 5 wt% to 7wt% phenol.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein the column is operated at a pressure from 0.1 kg/cm^2 (g) to 5 kg/cm^2(g).

9. The process of claim 1, wherein the column is operated at a temperature from 20ºC to 50ºC.

10. The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation zone comprises at least one reactor having a hydrogenation catalyst.