

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

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Abstract

Acrylic acid or methacrylic acid is purified by

- (a) subjecting a mixture comprising the acrylic acid or methacrylic acid to
a sharply defined separation process essentially in the absence of an
10 organic solvent, with the composition of the phase in which the acrylic
acid or methacrylic acid accumulates remaining essentially constant
when the composition of the other phases participating in the mass
transfer changes, then taking off this phase and
(b) subjecting at least a part of the remaining phase from stage(a) to a less
15 sharply defined separation process and
(c) feeding one of the phases formed in stage (b) to the sharply defined
separation process in stage (a).

In addition, the invention provides a process for preparing acrylic acid
or methacrylic acid which includes the abovementioned purification
20 process.

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