

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 July 2004 (29.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/063145 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07C 253/26**,
253/34, 255/08

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/038691

(22) International Filing Date: 5 December 2003 (05.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/437,836 3 January 2003 (03.01.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR,
CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, 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, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN,
MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR RECOVERING ACRYLONITRILE OR METHACRYLONITRILE

(57) Abstract: A process for the recovery of acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile from an aqueous solution comprising subjecting the said solution to a water extractive distillation by feeding the solution to a distillation column and performing said extractive distillation and using solvent water introduced at the top of said column, removing a first overhead vapor stream of acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile with some water from the top of the column, and a first liquid stream containing water and impurities from the bottom of the column, the contents of said column maintained at a substantially neutral pH by adding a sufficient amount of at least one alkaline compound selected from ammonium carbonate, ammonium bicarbonate, ammonium carbamate, and aikylene diamines to the overhead decanter and/or to the solvent water.



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