

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
15 September 2022 (15.09.2022)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2022/189218 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07C 1/20 (2006.01) C07C 29/80 (2006.01)
C07C 7/04 (2006.01) C07C 31/12 (2006.01)
C07C 11/02 (2006.01) C07C 41/06 (2006.01)
C07C 11/09 (2006.01) C07C 41/58 (2006.01)
C07C 29/10 (2006.01) C07C 43/04 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2022/055186

(22) International Filing Date:

01 March 2022 (01.03.2022)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

21161227.0 08 March 2021 (08.03.2021) EP

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR OBTAINING ISOBUTENE FROM A C4-HYDROCARBON MIXTURE

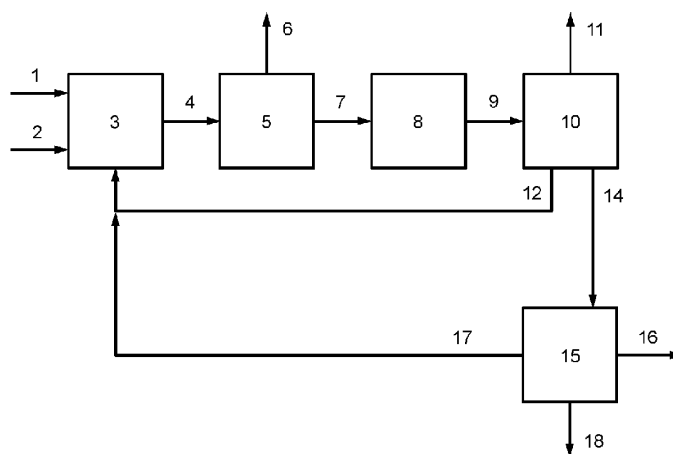


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for obtaining isobutene from an isobutene containing C4-hydrocarbon mixture (1) in a plant comprising an etherification unit (3), a first distillation unit (5), an ether cleavage unit (8) and a second distillation unit (10), the process comprising: (a) contacting the C4-hydrocarbon mixture (1) with a primary alcohol (2) and reacting the mixture with the primary alcohol in the presence of an acidic catalyst to form the corresponding alkyl tert-butyl ether as an intermediate product and diisobutene as a by-product in the etherification unit (3); (b) distilling the reaction mixture (4) from the etherification unit (3) in the first distillation unit (5), a C4-hydrocarbon raffinate being withdrawn as the overhead product (6), the alkyl tert-butyl ether and diisobutene being withdrawn as the liquid or vaporous bottom product (7), and vaporizing the bottom product (7) if it is withdrawn as a liquid; (c) reacting the vaporous bottom product (7) in the presence of an acidic catalyst obtaining isobutene and the primary alcohol as reaction products in the ether cleavage unit (8); (d) distilling the reaction mixture (9) from the ether cleavage unit (8) in the second distillation

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DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH,
KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA,
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TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

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

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

unit (10), isobutene being withdrawn as the overhead product (11), the primary alcohol and diisobutene being withdrawn as the bottom product (12) and being recycled to the etherification unit (3); the plant further comprising a byproduct separation unit (15) being fed by a bottom purge stream (13) of the first distillation unit (5) and/or by a part of the bottom product of the second distillation unit (10), this feed stream (14) being split up in at least three byproduct streams wherein a first byproduct stream (16) is rich in diisobutene, a second byproduct stream (17) is rich in the primary alcohol, and a third byproduct stream (18) is rich in components with a normal boiling point higher than 110 °C.