

5 **APPARATUS FOR REGULATING THE FLOW RATE OF AT LEAST
 ONE FLUID IN SIMULATED MOVING BED SEPARATION UNITS**

A B S T R A C T

10 An apparatus for regulating the flow rate of at least one fluid or effluent
circulating in a simulated moving bed comprises a plurality of beds disposed in a
closed loop in at least one chromatographic column (1) and comprising at least one
means for recirculating fluid and comprising at least two lines for injecting fluid at
a controlled flow rate and at least two lines for withdrawing fluid, one of said
15 withdrawal (extract or raffinate) lines being under flow rate control, the other (60)
being under pressure control via at least one control valve (6), and is characterized
in that said pressure controlled withdrawal line (60) comprises, in addition to the
control valve, comprises at least one restriction means (201) enabling the pressure
downstream of at least one of the beds to be reduced.

20 Application to separating a xylene isomer.

Figure 4 to be published.