

ABSTRACT

There is provided a method allowing industrially efficient production of high quality acetic acid having a good potassium permanganate test value and a low impurity content without a large cost.

The method for producing acetic acid according to the present invention has a carbonylation reaction step, an evaporation step and a lower boiling point component removal step, and wherein with heating of the evaporator, (i) an acetaldehyde concentration in the aqueous phase of an overhead condensate in a lower boiling point component removal column is controlled to not less than 2340 ppm by mass; and/or (ii) a methyl acetate concentration in the aqueous phase is controlled to less than 19.0% by mass and/or; (iii) a methyl acetate concentration in the organic phase of the overhead condensate in the lower boiling point component removal column is controlled to less than 38.0% by mass, and then at least a portion of the aqueous phase is treated in the acetaldehyde separation and removal step to recycle a residual liquid after the acetaldehyde separation and removal to the reaction vessel and/or the acetaldehyde separation and removal step and/or other processes.

[Figure 1]