

METHOD FOR SORTING SPENT CATALYST AS A FUNCTION OF THE METALS OF THE CATALYST

A B S T R A C T

The invention concerns a method for separating at least one catalyst from a mixture of homogeneously shaped catalysts, the catalysts comprising at least one metal selected from the group formed by Ni, Co, Mo, W, the catalyst to be separated comprising a characteristic metal selected from the group formed by Ni, Co, Mo, W and the other catalysts of the mixture not containing said characteristic metal, in which method:

- the grains of the catalyst of said mixture pass in front of the LIBS detection system,
- the presence of said characteristic metal in the catalysts is detected by the LIBS technique, the wavelength being selected so as to detect said characteristic metal,
- the LIBS detection system sends a signal to a means for evacuating grains of catalyst to be separated in a manner such as to separate said grains from the other catalysts of said mixture.

The invention also concerns the associated device.

Figure 1