

ABSTRACT
CARBONYLATION PROCESS

A process for removing higher organic iodides, including hexyl iodide, from an acetic acid product obtained by carbonylating methanol and/or a reactive derivative thereof in the presence of a finite concentration of water, Group VIII noble metal catalyst, methyl iodide as co-catalyst, and optionally a catalyst promoter, which process includes the step of subjecting an aqueous composition comprising acetic acid and at least one higher organic iodide to distillation in a column, or section of a column, separating water overhead from a dry acetic acid fraction, wherein the water concentration on the feed tray of the column, or section of the column, is greater than 8% by weight and the water concentration in the head of the column, and/or section of the column, is greater than 70% by weight.