

Title (en)

CONTINUOUS ETHYL LACTATE PREPARATION METHOD

Title (de)

KONTINUIERLICHES VERFAHREN ZUR HERSTELLUNG VON ETHYLLACTAT

Title (fr)

PROCEDE CONTINU DE PREPARATION DE LACTATE D'ETHYLE

Publication

EP 1569891 A2 20050907 (FR)

Application

EP 03796169 A 20031205

Priority

- FR 0303598 W 20031205
- FR 0215348 A 20021205

Abstract (en)

[origin: FR2848209A1] Continuous production of ethyl lactate comprises esterifying lactic acid with ethanol until the lactic acid conversion is 80% or less, distilling the reaction mixture in a flash column, recycling the bottoms stream from the flash column to the esterification reactor, and distilling the overhead stream from the flash column to produce an overhead stream of ethanol and water and a bottoms stream of ethyl lactate. Continuous production of ethyl lactate comprises esterifying lactic acid with ethanol in an initial ethanol/lactic acid molar ratio of at least 2.5 in the presence of a catalyst at 50-90 degrees C and atmospheric pressure until the lactic acid conversion is 80% or less, distilling the reaction mixture in a flash column at 80-90 degrees C and up to 65 mbar, recycling the bottoms stream from the flash column to the esterification reactor, and distilling the overhead stream from the flash column at atmospheric pressure to produce an overhead stream of ethanol and water and a bottoms stream of ethyl lactate with a water content allowing subsequent purification. An Independent claim is also included for ethyl lactate produced as above with a water content of 0.3% or less.

IPC 1-7

C07C 67/08; **C07C 67/54**; **C07C 69/68**

IPC 8 full level

C07C 67/08 (2006.01); **C07C 67/54** (2006.01)

CPC (source: EP KR US)

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Citation (search report)

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