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(11)

**EP 0 736 588 A3**

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**27.12.1996 Bulletin 1996/52**

(51) Int Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **C10G 7/08, C10G 21/28**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**09.10.1996 Bulletin 1996/41**

(21) Application number: **96200903.1**

(22) Date of filing: **03.04.1996**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**CH DE DK FR GB LI NL SE**

(30) Priority: **04.04.1995 EP 95200854**

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(54) **Process for removing aromatics from hydrocarbon vapour streams**

(57) Process for the removal of aromatic hydrocarbons from a hydrocarbon vapour stream containing such aromatic hydrocarbons, which process comprises the steps of:

(1) contacting in an extractive distillation column the hydrocarbon vapour stream with an extracting solvent capable of selectively dissolving aromatic hydrocarbons,

(2) withdrawing at the upper portion of the extractive distillation column a vaporous raffinate having a reduced content of aromatic hydrocarbons,

(3) withdrawing from the bottom part of the extractive distillation column a liquid solvent stream, which has been enriched with aromatic hydrocarbons,

whereby at least one liquid comprising extracting solvent and aromatic hydrocarbons is withdrawn from the lower portion of the extractive distillation column and subsequently at least part of the liquid withdrawn is heated under such conditions that at least part of the aromatic hydrocarbons present in said liquid evaporates without substantial evaporation of the extracting solvent, after which the heated liquid/vapour stream is returned to the extractive distillation column.

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 20 0903

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	US-A-5 225 072 (UOP) * the whole document *	1-9	C10G7/08 C10G21/28
A	EP-A-0 491 196 (KRUPP KOPPERS) ---		
A	EP-A-0 496 060 (KRUPP KOPPERS) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			C10G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 4 November 1996	Examiner Michiels, P
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 01.82 (P04C01)