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(54) **Process for eliminating mercury from liquid hydrocarbons**

(57) A process for continuously eliminating mercury and mercury compounds in liquid hydrocarbons for example, a natural gas condensate comprising: (a) bringing liquid hydrocarbons containing mercury and mercury compounds, as well as asphaltene into contact, in a first adsorption treatment zone, with a porous inorganic adsorbent which is at least one of materials selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, activated clay, alumina, silica gel, silica-alumina and zeolite, and then (b) bringing the liquid hydrocarbons from the adsorption treatment zone after the adsorption treatment into contact, in a second adsorption treatment zone, with an activated carbon having a specific surface area from 200 m²/g to 2500 m²/g and an average pore diameter from 10 Å to 100 Å. Mercury and mercury compounds in liquid hydrocarbons containing a great amount of heavy ingredients such as asphaltene can be eliminated continuously for a long period of time.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 10 2446

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	EP 0 325 486 A (MITSUI PETROCHEMICAL IND) 26 July 1989 * claims 1,4-6 * * page 5, line 55 - line 57 * ---	1-4,6	C10G25/00
A	US 5 107 060 A (YAN TSOUNG Y) 21 April 1992 * claims 1,5,11,13 * ---	1,2	
P,A	EP 0 755 994 A (TAIYO OIL CO LTD ;KURARAY CHEMICAL KK (JP)) 29 January 1997 * claims 1,2 * * page 2, line 48 - line 53 * * page 4, line 2 - line 7 * * example 1 * -----	1,2,7,8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			C10G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	29 January 1998	De Herdt, O	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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			

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