

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 October 2007 (18.10.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/117481 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
C07C 27/10 (2006.01) C07C 35/00 (2006.01)
C07C 29/10 (2006.01)

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/008338

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 5 April 2007 (05.04.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/789,470 5 April 2006 (05.04.2006) US
60/855,017 27 October 2006 (27.10.2006) US

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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
16 October 2008

(54) Title: METHOD FOR REMOVING SULFUR COMPOUNDS FROM AN ALCOHOL STREAM

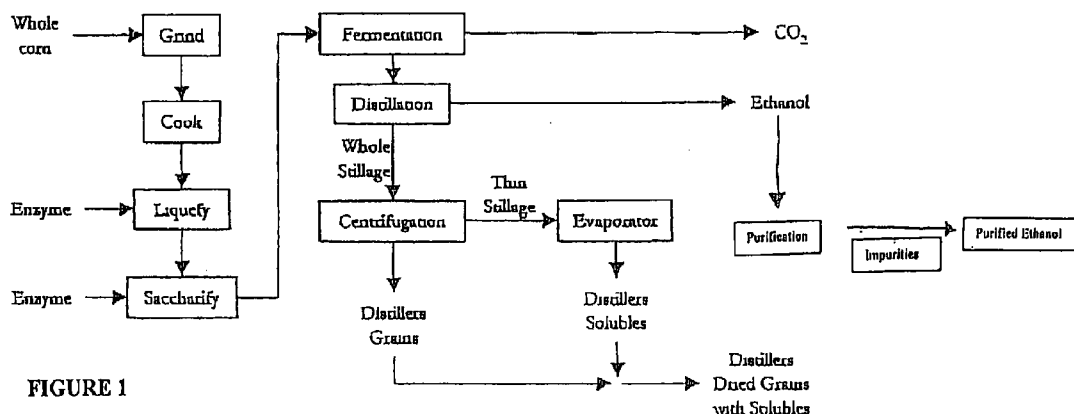


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: Processes, apparatus, and systems for purifying alcohol streams by reducing the concentration of sulfur compounds in those alcohol streams are presented herein. The invention is exemplified by reduction of sulfur dioxide, sulfate ion, and sulfite ion in an ethanol stream, but is applicable for the removal of other sulfur compounds from other alcohol streams.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/08338

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: C07C 27/10(2006.01);C07C 29/10(2006.01);C07C 35/00(2006.01)

USPC: 568/700

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 568/700

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST, STN, alcohol, purification, sulfur removal etc..

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2,700,687 (CATTERALL ET AL) 25 January 1955 (25.01.1955) COL. 7, PARAGRAPH 2, ABSTRACT	1 ----- 1, 3-5, 11-12, AND 14-15

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
08 July 2008 (08.07.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report
29 JUL 2008

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/08338

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1,3-12,14 and 15.

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

I. claims 1, 3-12, and 14-15

II. claims 2, 5-12, and 15

III. claim 13

The invention listed in Groups I, II, and III, do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT rule 13.1 because, under PCT rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature for the following reasons: the special technical features that appears in all of the claims would be the alcohol. This compound is not a novel concept.