



Interoffice Communication

To J. A. DeBernardi
From R. J. Convers
Date March 9, 1978
Subject R304 Catalyst Change

Further consideration leads me to believe that the copper acetylide most likely to be formed (if any acetylides are formed) when R304 is especially ethylene rich (during start-up, shut-down, and low oxy flow rates) is cuprous acetylide which decomposes thermally at 120°C.

If chlorine can not be used as insurance against acetylides and an oxy vent gas by-pass around R304 is not available, operation of R304 charged with copper-based oxy catalyst should still be safe as long as R304 is maintained above 120°C.

I therefore recommend the following:

- (1) Charge R304 with BASF oxy catalyst.
- (2) Maintain R304 at above 120°C during start-up, shut-down, and low oxy flow rates.

Ronald J. Convers
R. J. Convers

sam
CC:
JADe:JF:JG:HLH
FK:AJLu:CMS:WRBe
DJR:GJH:KY:FJR

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