

Surfactants & Detergents Calendar

Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11237, telephone 718-497-4664.

November

Steel Structures Painting Council annual meeting and technical symposium, Nov. 2-5, 1987, Sheraton World, Orlando, Florida. Technical symposium will be "Improving Field Reliability of Protective Coating Systems." Contact: Steel Structures Painting Council, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2683.

Introduction to Polymer Chemistry Short Course, Nov. 2-6, 1987, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Missouri. Contact: Coatings Continuing Education, Department of Chemistry, University of Missouri-Rolla, 142 Schrenk Hall, Rolla, MO 65401-0249.

Society of Cosmetics Chemists New York Chapter, Nov. 4, 1987, Clinton Manor, Union, New Jersey. Topic: Cosmetic Con-

tenders Quiz Show. Contact: Herman Brown, Chapter Chairman, Finetex Inc., 418 Falmouth Ave., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407, telephone 201-797-4686.

December

2nd Pan Arab Conference on Soaps and Detergents, Dec. 6-10, 1987, Abu-Dhabi, U.A.E. Contact: Salih Rashid Al-Dhahiri, General Abu-Dhabi, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PO Box 662, Abu-Dhabi, U.A.E.

1988

XIXth Meeting of CED/AID on Surfactants, March 9-11, 1988, Granada, Spain. Contact: Secretaria de la Asociación de Investigación de Detergents (AID), Jorge Girona Salgado, 18-26 Edificio Juan de la Cierva, 08034 Barcelona, Spain.

World Surfactants Congress II,

"Surfactants in our world—today and tomorrow," May 24-27, 1988, Paris, France. Organized by ASPA, France, and sponsored by the European Committee on Organic Surfactants and Their Intermediates, Avenue Louise 250, Bte. 102, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Cosmetic Science '88—Achievements and Aims, 15th international Congress of the International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists, Sept. 26-29, 1988, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, England. Contact: Lorna K. Weston, General Secretary, Society of Cosmetic Scientists, Delaport House, 57 Guildford St., Luton, Beds LU1 2NL, England.

ISF/JOCS Joint World Congress, Sept. 26-30, 1988, Tokyo, Japan. Contact: ISF/JOCS World Congress 1988, Secretariat, The Japan Oil Chemists' Society, 7th floor, Yushi Kogyo Kaikan, 13-11 Nihonbashi 3-chome, Chuoku, Tokyo 103, Japan.

Surfactants & Detergents Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We read with great interest Abstract P-4, on the manufacture of soap and detergent via a novel process, published in your September 1986 issue on page 1126.

We at Bombay Extractions Ltd., Bombay, India, have manufactured toilet soap by a similar process since November 1982. The fatty acid mixture is charged in a mixer with high mixing capacity. The temperature of the fatty acids is taken to about 70 C. Caustic soda solution is then added with the required quantity of water (including calculated process loss of moisture). The saponification is completed in three to four minutes, and the soap is run down to a mixer, where

additives, color and perfume are added. The rest of the process is the same as a regular toilet soap finishing line.

The main advantage here is energy savings, as excess water is not added as is done in the boiling process. As such, spray driers are not required to remove the excess moisture.

We have a medium-scale toilet soap plant with capacity to produce approximately 20 metric tons of soap per day. We now have initiated the manufacture of methyl esters of oils and fats. The esters are distilled and used in the manufacture of soap by a process similar to the one mentioned above except for two changes: (a) the mixer works under vacuum, and (b) the ester temperature is taken to

approximately 120 C. Caustic soda is added with the correct amount of water. Methanol which is displaced is condensed and collected. Saponification is completed in 20 minutes. The major advantage in this process is reduction in energy consumption in the manufacture of glycerine (glycerine produced by this process is of 75% concentration and can be directly distilled to 98% or more).

Crude esters are distilled at much lower temperatures than fatty acids, thus consuming less energy. The resultant product is a very light-colored ester, which can be used in light colored soaps.

K. Karani
Bombay Extractions Ltd.