

LC-FINING



Chevron Lummus Global

Overview

LC-FINING, an ebullated bed process, represents the most efficient way of handling petroleum bottoms and other heavy hydrocarbons for purification or conversion to distillates. The process features high yields and high removal of contaminants in a safe, reliable, easy-to-operate plant at a low investment.

Chevron Lummus Global's (CLG) proprietary and patented design for low-pressure hydrogen and heat recovery eliminates most of the high-pressure equipment that is required downstream of the reactors in other processes.

The LC-FINING process has been used for desulfurization, demetallization, Conradson carbon reduction, and hydroprocessing of atmospheric and vacuum resids. Feedstocks processed include the heaviest, high-metal, high-sulfur vacuum resids. Commercial designs and unit operations range from desulfurization at minimum conversion for the production of high-quality fuel oils to the nearly complete conversion of resid into low-sulfur distillate products. The residual product can be used as fuel oil, synthetic crude, or as feedstock to a coker, a visbreaker or a solvent deasphalter.

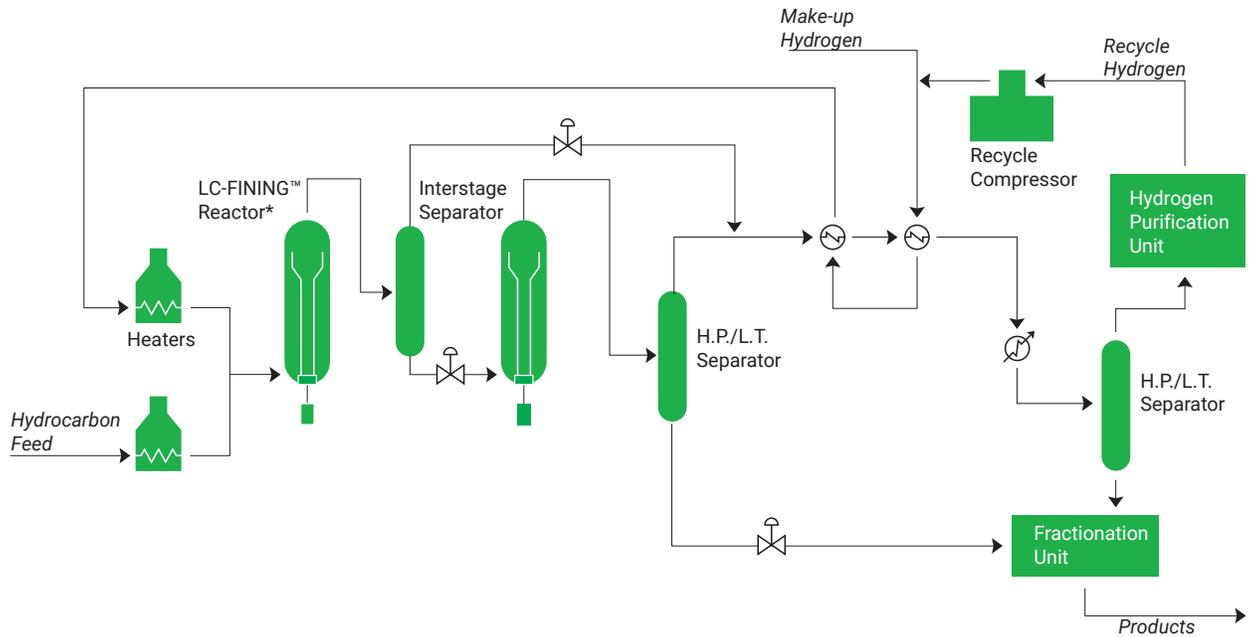
Recent advances in the technology include new designs of the reactor internals that increase conversion and throughput. Current designs can process up to 75,000 bpd of heavy vacuum resid in single train systems with the incorporation of the Interstage Separator between ebullated bed reactors. As important, these designs can incorporate integrated gasoil and lighter oil hydrotreating or hydrocracking reactors to produce high-quality distillates and lighter fuels for today's clean fuels market. They also provide a means to upgrade other streams in the refinery that need further hydroprocessing. Licensees operate units at residual conversion levels between 60 and 90 percent of the residual charge.

CLG is actively engaged in continually upgrading the LC-FINING process, providing state-of-the-art technology and the most efficient process design.

Technical Advantages

Process Features	Process Benefits
Expanded Bed Reactor with Continuous, On-Stream Addition and Withdrawal of Catalyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long periods of operation without shutdown (5+ years for some operating plants) • No feed quality limitations – handles wide range of heaviest feedstocks • Constant product quality maintained • No reactor pressure drop build-up • Maximizes kinetic effect via continuous good distribution and contacting of catalyst, H₂ and oil • Operation at an optimum reactor temperature • Ability to change catalyst type while operating
Advanced Reactor Section Design	Significantly increases throughput and conversion from earlier designs
Advanced Controls Monitoring And Surveillance System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe, Reliable Unit Operation • Smooth, Fast Start-Up
High Pressure Membranes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Gas Rates • Lower Investment • Lower Utility Consumption • High Reliability • Low Maintenance
High Conversion Technology	Maximizes bottoms upgrading to valuable distillates (97% + conversion of resid feed)
Variety of Improved Catalysts Available in a Competitive Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demetallization Catalyst Allows Processing of Feedstocks With Highest Metals Content • Desulfurization Catalyst Allows for Production of High Quality, Low Sulfur Fuel Oil • Best Catalyst for CCR Reduction • Control of Product Solids Content • Reduced Catalyst Rate

Block Flow Diagram



*Note: May use two or more reactors in series

Process Description

Fresh hydrocarbon liquid feed is mixed with hydrogen and reacted within an expanded catalyst bed that is maintained in turbulence by liquid upflow so as to achieve efficient isothermal operation. Product quality is constantly maintained at a high level by intermittent catalyst addition and withdrawal. Reactor products flow to the high-pressure separator, low-pressure separator, and then to product fractionation. Recycled hydrogen is separated and purified.

Process features include on-stream catalyst addition and withdrawal, thereby eliminating the need to shut down for catalyst replacement. The expanded bed reactors operate at near isothermal conditions without the need for quenches within the reactor. Application of membranes for purification of the

recycle gas permits reduction of the reaction system pressure while maintaining low treat gas rates. Membranes optimize recycle gas recompression requirements resulting in overall unit power consumption savings while maintaining higher reliability and lower maintenance requirements than previous PSA applications.

An available process option is the integration of LC-FINING technology with distillate hydrotreating or hydrocracking to produce high-quality middle distillate products and/or petrochemical feedstocks. This can eliminate the need for additional downstream processing. Unconverted oil from an LC-FINING unit can be sold as a stable, low-sulfur fuel oil or sent to another heavy oil conversion unit for further upgrading.

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