SIGNIFICANT IR ABSORPTIONS FOR REAGENTS AND PRODUCTS IN THE ESTER EXP'T (4000 - 1600 cm⁻¹)

-O-H (water) 3700 cm⁻¹ (broad, large)

-O-H (alcohols) 3300 cm⁻¹ (broad, medium size)

-O-H (carboxylic acid) 3000 cm⁻¹ (very broad, medium size)

-C-H (alkyl groups) < 3000 cm⁻¹ (sharp, usually large)

C=O (ester) 1740 cm⁻¹ (sharp, large)

C=O (carboxylic acid) 1710 cm⁻¹ (sharp, large)

ester product will have a strong, sharp peak at ~ 1700 cm⁻¹ (C=O) and a strong sharp peak at ~ 2900 cm⁻¹ (alkyl C-H)

pure ester product should have NO significant peaks above 3000 cm⁻¹