

ABSTRACT
OLEFIN HYDRATION PROCESS AND CATALYST

This invention relates to a novel catalyst composition comprising a heteropolyacid and a siliceous support which is in the form of extrudates or pellets and to a process for hydrating olefins to the corresponding alcohols in the vapour phase in the presence of such a catalyst composition. By using the specific catalyst composition described herein it is possible not only to increase the space-time-yield of a process but also to prolong the life thereof thereby reducing the frequency with which the catalyst is changed or replaced on a plant, especially in an olefin hydration process.