

PROCESS FOR IMPROVING PURITY OF PARA-XYLENE PRODUCT

ABSTRACT

A process for producing 99.5 + wt.% para-xylene by selective alkylation comprises providing an intermediate product having 99.0 to 99.8 wt.% purity and reacting it with an alkylating agent. The agent preferably has at least one tertiary butyl moiety and is reacted in the presence of an acidic catalyst under conditions where the catalyst is in good molecular contact with the non-para-xylene isomers. The catalyst may be a high surface area acidic heterogeneous catalyst such as a proton-exchanged zeolite. Upon distillation, para-xylene is recovered in 99.5 wt.% purity or higher. The selective alkylation gives little or no alkylation of the para-xylene, the most predominant species, and very little or no isomerization to the other, non-desirable isomers.

0-1215229

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

This is the replacement sheet

Date: 25 NOV 1996