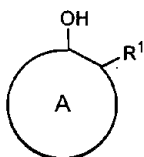


A PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ISOCYANATES

ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention is to provide a process that enables isocyanates to be stably produced over a long period of time at high yield without encountering various problems as found in the prior art when producing isocyanates without using phosgene. The present invention discloses a process for producing an isocyanate, comprising the steps of: reacting a carbamic acid ester and an aromatic hydroxy compound to obtain an aryl carbamate having a group derived from the aromatic hydroxy compound; and subjecting the aryl carbamate to a decomposition reaction, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is an aromatic hydroxy compound which is represented by the following formula (1) and which has a substituent R^1 at at least one ortho position of a hydroxyl group:



(1)

(wherein ring A represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring in a form of a single or multiple rings which may have a substitute and which have 6 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^1 represents a group other than a hydrogen atom in a form of an aliphatic alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aliphatic alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryloxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkyloxy group having 7 to 20 carbon atoms, the group containing an atom selected from a carbon atom, an oxygen atom and a nitrogen atom; and R^1 may bond with A to form a ring structure).

Fig. 5