

OXIDATION OF ALKYLAROMATIC COMPOUNDS

ABSTRACT

In a process for oxidizing an alkylaromatic compound to the corresponding hydroperoxide, a feed comprising an alkylaromatic compound is contacted with an oxygen-containing gas in the presence of a catalyst comprising a cyclic imide. The contacting is conducted at a temperature of about 90°C to about 150°C, with the cyclic imide being present in an amount between about 0.05 wt% and about 5 wt% of the alkylaromatic compound in the feed and the catalyst being substantially free of alkali metal compounds. The contacting oxidizes at least part of the alkylaromatic compound in said feed to the corresponding hydroperoxide.

(Figure 1)