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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/24416 (22) International Filing Date: 18 October 1999 (18.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/210,707 14 December 1998 (14.12.98) US (71) Applicant: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY [US/US]; 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US). (72) Inventors: BRUNELLE, Daniel, Joseph; 4 Woods Edge, Burnt Hills, NY 12027 (US). GUGGENHEIM, Thomas, Link; 3401 Upton Road, Mount Vernon, IN 47620 (US). (74) Agents: SNYDER, Bernard et al.; General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike W3C, Fairfield, CT 06431 (US).		(81) Designated States: IN, JP, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: PHASE TRANSFER CATALYZED METHOD FOR PREPARING OXYBISPHTHALIC COMPOUNDS (57) Abstract Oxybisphthalic compounds such as 4,4'-oxybis(N-methylphthalimide) and 4,4'-oxybis(phthalic anhydride) are prepared from the corresponding nitro- or halo-substituted phthalic compounds by reaction with an alkanoate or carbonate salt in a substantially non-polar solvent and in the presence of a hexaalkylguanidinium salt as phase transfer catalyst. A carboxylic acid such as 4-chlorobenzoic acid may be used as an additional catalyst. Reaction rates and yields are higher than with other phase transfer catalysts.		