

A B S T R A C T

THIS SHEET HAS BEEN
REPLACED

5 Process for the preparation of ϵ -caprolactam and
 ϵ -caprolactam precursors, starting from the corresponding
 5-formylvalerate ester, ammonia and hydrogen in the
 presence of a hydrogenation catalyst, wherein in a first
 step 5-formylvalerate ester is reacted with ammonia under
 non-hydrogenating conditions, and in a second step the
10 reaction product obtained in the first step is converted
 to ϵ -caprolactam and the ϵ -caprolactam precursor(s) under
 hydrogenating conditions in the presence of ammonia.

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