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Preparation of maleic anhydride



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Abstract

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In a process for preparing maleic anhydride by heterogeneously catalyzed gas-phase oxidation of hydrocarbons having at least four carbon atoms using oxygen-containing gases in the presence of a volatile phosphorus compound over a catalyst comprising

10 vanadium, phosphorus and oxygen in a shell-and-tube reactor unit having at least two successive cooled reaction zones, the temperature of the first reaction zone is from 350 to 450°C and the temperature of the second and further reaction zones is from 350 to 480°C and the temperature difference between the hottest

15 reaction zone and the coolest reaction zone is at least 2°C.

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