

Deactivation and recovery of boron trifluoride in the preparation of polyisobutenes

5 Abstract

In the preparation of polyisobutenes by cationic polymerization of isobutene or isobutene-containing hydrocarbon streams in the liquid phase in the presence of boron trifluoride as such or in
10 the form of a boron trifluoride catalyst complex, boron trifluoride is deactivated and recovered by a process in which the catalyst complex is separated as a substantially liquid phase from the discharge from the reactor, wherein

- 15 a) methanol, ethanol or a mixture of methanol and ethanol is added to the discharge from the polymerization reactor at from -60 to 0°C in an amount such that a boron trifluoride-rich alcohol phase separates out,
- 20 b) the alcohol phase according to (a) is separated off and
- c) the boron trifluoride of the alcohol phase according to (b) is, if desired, recycled to the process in a suitable manner.

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