

(PROPOSED AMENDMENT)

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~~PROCESS FOR PREPARING BIS(ETHER ANHYDRIDES) USING~~
~~ALKYLAMINE DERIVED BISIMIDES HAVING LOW MELTING~~
~~TEMPERATURES~~

ABSTRACT

5 A process for making bis(ether an hydrides) employs alkylamines
having low melting temperatures thus allowing for novel intermediate
process steps for preparing bis(ether anhydrides). The alkylamines have
alkyl groups which contain at least three carbon atoms and have boiling
temperatures in the range of 48 to 250°C at atmospheric pressure. As a
10 result of using these amines, liquid alkylamines now can be employed in
the imidization process step. The N-alkyl nitrophthalimides prepared
from the recovered imidization product according to this invention can
now be purified using liquid/liquid extraction or vacuum distillation.
The alkyl nitrophthalimides prepared according to this invention provide
15 for displacement reactions which now can be run at a high solids level.
Likewise, the exchange reaction can be run at a higher solids level, and
thus achieves an efficiency level which is higher than conventional
processes.

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