CLAIMS:

1. A process for preparing a shelf-stable liquid overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt comprising:

reacting a mixture of an alkali or alkaline earth metal base and a carboxylic acid with an equivalent ratio of metal base to carboxylic acid being greater than 1:1 in the presence of liquid hydrocarbon, and

carbonating the reaction mixture in the presence of a 1,3-diketone to produce a storage-stable overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein the carboxylic acid is an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid and the 1,3-diketone has a cyclic or open chain of 5 to 30 carbon atoms.

3. The process of claim 2 wherein said carboxylic acid is a C12-C22 fatty acid.

4. The process of claim 3 wherein said fatty acid is oleic acid.

5. The process of claim 1 wherein said alkaline earth metal is selected from the group consisting of calcium, barium, magnesium, and strontium.

6. The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, and lithium.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein said alkaline earth metal is barium.

8. The process of claim 1 wherein the overbased salt is a barium oleate/ketonate/carbonate.

9. The process of claim 1 to produce the overbased salt free of phenol or phenolic derivative.

10. The process of claim 1 wherein the amount of alkali or alkaline earth metal in the salt is about up to 40% by weight.

11. The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of alcohol.

12. The process of claim 1 wherein water is removed from the reaction product to provide a storage-stable liquid overbased barium carboxylate/1,3-diketonate/carbonate.

13. The process of claim 1 wherein the 1,3-diketone is selected from the group consisting of dibenzoyl methane, stearoyl benzoyl methane, and octanoyl benzoyl methane.

14. The liquid overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt prepared in accordance with the process of claim 1 or 12.

15. A halogen-containing polymer composition comprising a halogen-containing polymer and a heat-stabilizing amount of the liquid overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt prepared in accordance with the process of claim 1 or 12.

CLAIMS:

1. A process for preparing a shelf-stable liquid overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt comprising:

reacting a mixture of an alkali or alkaline earth metal base and a carboxylic acid with an equivalent ratio of metal base to carboxylic acid being greater than 1:1 in the presence of liquid hydrocarbon, and

carbonating the reaction mixture in the presence of a 1,3-diketone to produce a storage-stable overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein the carboxylic acid is an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid and the 1,3-diketone has a cyclic or open chain of 5 to 30 carbon atoms.

3. The process of claim 2 wherein said carboxylic acid is a C12-C22 fatty acid.

4. The process of claim 3 wherein said fatty acid is oleic acid.

5. The process of claim 1 wherein said alkaline earth metal is selected from the group consisting of calcium, barium, magnesium, and strontium.

6. The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, and lithium.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein said alkaline earth metal is barium.

8. The process of claim 1 wherein the overbased salt is a barium oleate/ketonate/carbonate.

9. The process of claim 1 to produce the overbased salt free of phenol or phenolic derivative.

10. The process of claim 1 wherein the amount of alkali or alkaline earth metal in the salt is up to 40% by weight.

11. The process of claim 10 wherein the amount of alkali or alkaline earth metal in the salt is 25% to 40% by weight.

12. The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of alcohol.

13. A process for preparing a storage-stable liquid overbased barium salt free from any phenol or phenolic derivative comprising:

reacting a barium base and a carboxylic acid with an equivalent ratio of barium base to carboxylic acid being greater than 1:1 in the presence of liquid hydrocarbon,

carbonating the reaction in the presence of a 1,3-diketone, and

removing water from the reaction product to provide a storage-stable liquid overbased barium carboxylate/1,3-diketonate/carbonate.

14. The process of claim 13 wherein the 1,3-diketone is selected from the group consisting of dibenzoyl methane, stearoyl benzoyl methane, and octanoyl benzoyl methane.

15. The process of claim 13 wherein said carboxylic acid is an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid.

16. The process of claim 15 wherein said carboxylic acid is a C12-C22 fatty acid.

17. The process of claim 16 wherein said fatty acid is oleic acid.

18. The process of claim 13 wherein the amount of the barium base in the salt is up to 40% by weight.

19. The process of claim 13 wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of alcohol.

20. The liquid overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt prepared in accordance with the process of claim 1.

21. The liquid overbased barium salt prepared in accordance with the process of claim 13.

22. A halogen-containing polymer composition comprising a halogen-containing polymer and a heat-stabilizing amount of the liquid overbased alkali or alkaline earth metal salt prepared in accordance with the process of claim 1.

23. A halogen-containing polymer composition comprising a halogen-containing polymer and a heat-stabilizing amount of the liquid overbased barium salt prepared in accordance with the process of claim 13.