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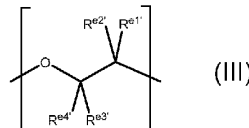
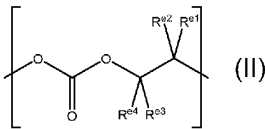
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(54) Title: SURFACE-ACTIVE AGENT



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a surface-active agent comprising a polycarbonate block polyether of formula (I): A-((PC)_P-(PE)_Q-Z)_X wherein: A is derived from a polyfunctional starter compound; PC represents a carbonate block with P repeat units of formula (II), wherein: R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} are all H; or one of R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, and the remaining three of R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} are all H; PE represents a polyether block with Q repeat units of formula (III), wherein: R^{e1'}, R^{e2'}, R^{e3'}, and R^{e4'} are all H; or one of R^{e1'}, R^{e2'}, R^{e3'}, and R^{e4'} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, and the remaining three of R^{e1'}, R^{e2'}, R^{e3'}, and R^{e4'} are all H; Z is OH, O-R, O-C(O)-R or O-C(O)-O-R; wherein each R is independently an optionally substituted (including with heteroatoms) straight or branched chain or cyclic alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkenyl, alkenaryl, or aralkenyl group; wherein the value of each P and the value of each Q are each independently from 1 to 50; and X is 2 or more.

WO 2024/156769 A1