

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
31 October 2024 (31.10.2024)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2024/223521 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C08G 64/02 (2006.01) C08G 64/34 (2006.01)
C08G 64/18 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2024/061012

(22) International Filing Date:

23 April 2024 (23.04.2024)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

2306045.2 25 April 2023 (25.04.2023) GB

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

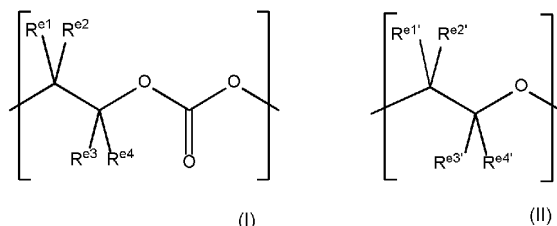
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG,
KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY,
MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA,
NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO,
RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS,
ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, CV,
GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST,
SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ,
RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ,
DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT,
LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE,
SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: SURFACE-ACTIVE AGENT



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a surface-active agent comprising a polycarbonate block polyether of the formula (I) $Z^1-(PC)_P-(PE)_Q-Z^2 \dots (I)$ wherein PC represents a carbonate block with P repeat units of formula (I) wherein R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} are independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, with the proviso that when one of R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, the remaining R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} are H.; PE represents a polyether block with Q repeat units of formula (II) wherein R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} are independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate groups, with the proviso that when one of R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, the remaining R^{e1} , R^{e2} , R^{e3} , and R^{e4} are H.; Z^1 is R, R-O, R-C(O)-O- or R-O-C(O)-O; R is an optionally substituted straight or branched chain C_1 - C_{11} alkyl group; Z^2 is H, R, R-(O)C or R-O-(O)C; and wherein the value of P is greater than the value of Q.



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