

PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHONIUM PHENOLATES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for producing a high purity tetraphenylphosphonium phenolate that at room temperature is in liquid form is disclosed. The process entails (i) reacting tetraphenylphosphonium halide with phenol in an aqueous-alkaline solution at temperatures of up to 55°C, at a molar ratio of phenol to tetraphenylphosphonium halide $\geq 10:1$ and at pH values of 9.5 to 11 to obtain a material system containing an organic phase and an aqueous phase and, (ii) upon completion of the reaction adding a solution of water and a sparingly soluble alcohol to separate the aqueous phase from the organic phase. The phosphonium phenolate thus produced is suitable as transesterification catalyst, in particular for solvent-free production of thermoplastic polycarbonate.



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