

A B S T R A C T

CARBONYLATION OF EPOXIDES

The invention relates a process for the carbonylation of epoxides by reaction with carbon monoxide at elevated pressure and temperature in the presence of a catalyst system comprising a source of cobalt and a hydroxy substituted pyridine compound, whereby β -propiolactones and/or derivatives thereof, such as β -propiolactone polymers, β -hydroxy carboxylic acids and esters, and β -alkoxy carboxylic acids and esters, are produced.

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