

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

CONTINUOUS PROCESSES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ETHOXYLATES

The present invention provides continuous processes for the production of an ethoxylate from a $C_1 - C_{26}$ non-phenolic alcohol in the presence of a double metal cyanide ("DMC") catalyst. The inventive multi-stage continuous process produces an ethoxylate product with an essentially equivalent molecular weight distribution as compared to the same ethoxylate made by basic catalysis. The inventive single-stage continuous process produces ethoxylate products having only a slightly broader molecular weight distribution than the multi-stage process. The products made by the inventive multi-stage continuous process may offer advantages where the ethoxylate product is used in or as a surfactant.

Figure 5