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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY ALCOHOLS

(57) Abstract: A process for producing primary alcohols from secondary alcohols and/or tertiary alcohols and/or ketones, wherein the process comprises reacting a compound selected from a secondary alcohol, a tertiary alcohol, a ketone, or mixtures thereof, with carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst based on: i) a source of Group VIII metal, ii) a bidentate ligand having the general formula (I): $R^1-R^2M^1-R-M^2R^3R^4$ wherein M^1 and M^2 are independently P, As or Sb; R^1 and R^2 together represent a bivalent substituted or unsubstituted cyclic group whereby the two free valencies are linked to M^1 ; R^3 and R^4 independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl group, or together represent a bivalent or non-substituted cyclic group whereby the two free valencies are linked to M^2 ; and R represents a bivalent aliphatic bridging group; and iii) an acid having a pK_a of 3 or less which is in excess over the Group VIII metal.



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