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(54) Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING (METH)ACRYLIC ACID ESTERS (54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN ZUR HERSTELLUNG VON (METH)ACRYLSÄUREESTERN (57) Abstract Method for producing (meth)acrylic acid esters by reacting (meth)acrylic acid with a C ₄ -C ₁₂ -alkanol in the presence of sulfuric acid or sulfuric acid mono C ₄ -C ₁₂ -alkyl ester as a catalyst, wherein A) the reaction is carried out in an esterification unit comprising a first reactor and at least one other reactor, B) the first reactor is loaded with a mixture of (meth)acrylic acid, C ₄ -C ₁₂ -alkanol and a catalyst, said mixture containing no more than 5 wt.% of water in relation to the sum of the starting materials, C) esterification is carried out in the first reactor without removing ester, alkanol or water until (meth)acrylic acid reaction of at least 40 % is obtained, as long as the mixture remains single phase, and D) esterification is continued in at least one other reactor in which the water formed is removed by distillation. (57) Zusammenfassung Verfahren zur Herstellung von (Meth)acrylsäureestern durch Umsetzung von (Meth)acrylsäure mit einem C ₄ -C ₁₂ -Alkanol in Gegenwart von Schwefelsäure oder eines Schwefelsäuremono-C ₄ -C ₁₂ -alkylesters als Katalysator, wobei man a) die Umsetzung in einer Veresterungseinheit durchführt, die einen ersten Reaktor und mindestens einen weiteren Reaktor umfaßt, b) den ersten Reaktor mit einem Gemisch aus (Meth)acrylsäure, C ₄ -C ₁₂ -Alkanol und Katalysator beschickt, das nicht mehr als 5 Gew.-% Wasser, bezogen auf die Summe der Ausgangsmaterialien, enthält, c) die Veresterung im ersten Reaktor ohne Ester, Alkanol oder Wasser zu entfernen bis zu einem (Meth)acrylsäureumsatz von mindestens 40 %, aber nur soweit führt, daß das Gemisch einphasig bleibt, und d) die Veresterung in mindestens einem weiteren Reaktor unter destillativer Entfernung des gebildeten Wassers fortführt.		

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