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ABSTRACT

A process for producing a highly pure phenol, in which a crude phenol obtained from an acid-decomposition product of cumene hydroperoxide and
5 having an α -methylstyrene content of 15 % by weight or less is catalytically treated with an acidic γ -alumina catalyst having a specific surface area of 80 to 400 m^2/g and an acid strength, according to Hammett's acidity function (H_o), of $3 \leq H_o \leq 6.8$ to convert
10 aliphatic and aromatic carbonyl compounds contained in the crude phenol into high-boiling compounds without causing the substantial formation of a dimer of α -methylstyrene contained in the crude phenol, and then, a phenol and the so-formed high-boiling compounds were
15 separated by distillation.

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