

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a process for producing an aromatic carbonate which comprises transesterifying, in the presence of a metal-containing catalyst, a starting material selected from the group consisting of a dialkyl carbonate, an alkyl aryl carbonate and a mixture thereof with a reactant selected from the group consisting of an aromatic monohydroxy compound, an alkyl aryl carbonate and a mixture thereof, wherein the transesterification is conducted while maintaining a weight ratio (WR) of at least one aromatic group-containing substance selected from the group consisting of a specific aromatic polyhydroxy compound and a residue thereof to the metal of the metal-containing catalyst at 2.0 or less, wherein the weight ratio (WR) is measured with respect to a catalyst-containing liquid-phase mixture in a system for the transesterification, and wherein the aromatic group-containing substance originates from the starting material, the reactant and/or a by-product of the transesterification. According to the process of the present invention, the transesterification reaction can be conducted without suffering disadvantageous phenomena, such as the deposition of the catalyst from the catalyst-containing liquid-phase mixture and the adhesion of the deposited catalyst to the inner walls of the reactor, pipes and the like, so that the desired aromatic carbonate can be produced stably for a prolonged period of time.