

ABSTRACT

TAPERED BLOCK COPOLYMERS OF MONOVINYLARENES AND CONJUGATED DIENES

A method for preparing tapered block copolymers in a polymerization process by sequentially charging: (1) an initiator and monovinylaromatic monomer in the presence of a randomizer; (2) an initiator and monovinylaromatic monomer; (3) a mixture of monovinylaromatic and conjugated diene monomers; (4) a mixture of monovinylaromatic and conjugated diene monomers; (5) conjugated diene monomer; and (6) a coupling agent; and the polymodal tapered block copolymers prepared thereby. The copolymers are particularly useful neat or in blends for applications such as packaging and food or drink containers which require transparency and good environmental stress crack resistance.