

ABSTRACT

PROCESS FOR THE HYDROCYANATION OF
UNSATURATED NITRILES TO DINITRILES

The present invention relates to a process for the hydrocyanation of nitriles containing ethylenic unsaturation to saturated dinitriles, in particular the hydrocyanation of pentenenitriles to adiponitrile, one of the basic compounds for the production of nylon 66.

More precisely, it consists of a process for the hydrocyanation of an aliphatic nitrile containing ethylenic unsaturation, by reaction with hydrogen cyanide in the presence of an aqueous solution of a catalyst comprising a transition metal compound and a sulphonated phosphine, characterized in that the said solution also contains a cocatalyst consisting of at least one Lewis acid.