

ABSTRACT

A process for converting ethylbenzene, by which ethylbenzene in a feedstocks containing C8 aromatic hydrocarbon is converted to benzene at a high degree of conversion is disclosed. The process for converting ethylbenzene comprises the step of bringing a C8 aromatic hydrocarbon mixed feedstocks containing ethylbenzene into contact with an acid type catalyst containing at least one metal selected from the group consisting of the metals belonging to Group VII and Group VIII in the presence of H₂ to convert ethylbenzene to benzene. The feedstocks contains C9-C10 aromatic hydrocarbons including ethyltoluene, and the ethyltoluene is converted to toluene together with the conversion of ethylbenzene.