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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US95/13699 (22) International Filing Date: 24 October 1995 (24.10.95) (30) Priority Data: 08/330,762 28 October 1994 (28.10.94) US (71) Applicant: E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). (72) Inventors: CONTRACTOR, Rashmikan, Maganlal; 2302 Orchard Lane, Wilmington, DE 19810-4233 (US). GARNETT, Donald, Irwin; 812 Morris Road, Hockessin, DE 19707-8509 (US). HOROWITZ, Harold, Saul; 22 Stable Court, Wilmington, DE 19803-1935 (US). SLEIGHT, Arthur, William; 22951 Rexford Lane, Philomath, OR 97370-0907 (US). (74) Agents: STEVENSON, Robert, B. et al.; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Legal/Patent Records Center, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CZ, EE, FI, GE, HU, IS, JP, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> SG 97 01819-6
(54) Title: IMPROVED PROCESS FOR THE CALCINATION/ACTIVATION OF V/P/O CATALYST (57) Abstract An improved process for calcination and activation of a catalyst containing mixed oxides of vanadium and phosphorus (V/P/O) comprising the steps of calcining a hydrated V/P/O or V/P/O-SiO₂ catalyst precursor at a temperature range of 375 to 400 °C for sufficient time to dehydrate said catalyst precursor while simultaneously and continuously controlling the oxygen level such as to maintain the Vox in the range of 3.825 to 4.175; and then activating the dehydrated catalyst precursor by further heating at a range of 340 to 500 °C in the presence of a gaseous atmosphere containing n-butane at a partial pressure not exceeding 0.20 atm while simultaneously and continuously controlling the oxygen level such as to maintain the Vox in the range of 3.95 to 4.15. Such a V/P/O catalyst is useful in the preparation of maleic anhydride from n-butane.		