CLAIMS:

1. A process for producing a xylene isomer comprising reacting oxygenates with an aromatic feedstock comprising toluene and/or benzene in a methylation zone operating under alkylation conditions comprising a maximum temperature of ~~150~~ 260°C to ~~400~~ 320°C and a pressure of ~~140~~ 10 kPa to ~~6000~~ 10000 kPa in the presence of a catalyst composition comprising a zeolite selected from a member of the group consisting of UZM-8, UZM-37, MCM-22, MCM-49, UZM-56 to provide a product stream comprising the xylene isomer, wherein a ratio of para-xylene to xylene in the product stream is greater than an equilibrium ratio of para-xylene to xylene.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the oxygenate is selected from the group consisting of a methanol, a dimethylether, a dimethylcarbonate, and a dimethylsulfate~~., and halogenated methanes.~~

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises a MCM-22 zeolite and product stream comprises para-xylenes.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises a UZM-37 zeolite and product stream comprises para-xylenes.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises a UZM-8 zeolite and the product stream comprises ortho-xylenes.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein the alkylation is performed in one of a vapor phase, a liquid phase and or a mixed vapor-liquid phase.

~~7. The process of claim 1, wherein the alkylation conditions comprise a temperature of 200°C to 350°C.~~

~~8~~ 7. The process of claim 1, wherein the alkylation conditions comprise a pressure of 300 kPa to 3000 kPa.

~~9~~ 8. The process of claim 1, wherein the alkylation conditions comprise a weight hourly space velocity of from 0.5 to 10 hr^{-1}.

~~10 A process for producing paraxylene comprising reacting a toluene stream and a methanol stream in a toluene methylation zone operating under toluene methylation conditions comprising a temperature of 150°C to 400°C and a pressure of pressure of 10 kPa to 10,000 kPa in the presence of a catalyst composition comprising a zeolite MCM-22 to produce a product stream comprising para-xylene.~~

9. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the xylene isomer is paraxylene, the oxygenate is methanol, the aromatic feedstock is toluene and the zeolite is MCM-22.