

ABSTRACT

It is an object of the present invention to provide a specific process that enables an aromatic carbonate to be produced with high selectivity and high productivity stably for a prolonged period of time on an industrial scale of no less than 1 ton per hour using a continuous multi-stage distillation column from a dialkyl carbonate and an aromatic monohydroxy compound containing specified amounts of an alcohol and an aromatic carbonate. Although there have been many proposals regarding the process of producing the aromatic carbonate using a reactive distillation method, these have all been on a small scale and a short operating time laboratory level. There have also been no disclosures whatsoever of a starting material containing necessary amounts of the alcohol and the aromatic carbonate for use in an industrial production, which have been considered to be disadvantageous in terms of the equilibrium, let alone the process and apparatus for the industrial production. According to the present invention, there is provided a specified continuous multi-stage distillation column, and there is also provided a specific process that enables the aromatic carbonate to be produced with high selectivity and high productivity stably for a prolonged period of time on an industrial scale of not less than 1 ton per hour from the dialkyl carbonate and the aromatic monohydroxy compound containing the alcohol and the aromatic carbonate.