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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF 1,2-PROPANEDIOL AND DIPROPYLENE GLYCOL

(57) Abstract: The method for preparing 1,2-propanediol and dipropylene glycol comprises step a) of continuously reacting propene with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst mixture comprising a phase transfer catalyst and a heteropolytungstate in a liquid reaction mixture comprising an aqueous phase with a maximum apparent pH of 6 and an organic phase to obtain 1,2-propanediol and dipropylene glycol; step b) of separating the reaction mixture into an aqueous phase (Pa) comprising 1,2-propanediol and dipropylene glycol and an organic phase (Po); step c) of recycling at least part of the separated organic phase (Po) to the reaction step a); and step d) of recovering 1,2-propanediol and dipropylene glycol from the separated aqueous phase (Pa); wherein the reaction heat generated in step a) is at least partially removed and the ratio of 1,2-propanediol to dipropylene glycol is controlled by adjusting the weight ratio of hydrogen peroxide to water fed to step a).



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