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(54) Title: CATALYST COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING DIARYL CARBONATES USING NITRILE AS PROMOTER

(57) Abstract: Hydroxyaromatic compounds such as phenol are carbonylated with oxygen and carbon monoxide in the presence of a catalyst system comprising a Group VIIIB metal, preferably palladium; an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal halide, preferably sodium bromide; and a promoter compound which is at least one C₂₋₈ aliphatic or C₇₋₁₀ aromatic mono- or dinitrile, preferably acetonitrile or adiponitrile. The catalyst system also preferably contains a compound of a non-Group VIIIB metal, preferably lead.

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