

**Abstract****A Process For Producing Estolide Compounds**

- 5 The present invention relates to a process for producing estolides or polyestolides, and the products manufactured therefrom. The process involved in which hydroxylated fatty acid, particularly dihydroxystearic acid acts as a starting material. The reaction is carried out at a temperature in the range from about 120°C to 200°C in the presence or absence of catalyst for predetermined period. Estolides/polyestolides obtained may be used as a thickening agent, emulsifier, and additive in cutting fluid as well as starting material for producing surfactant.
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