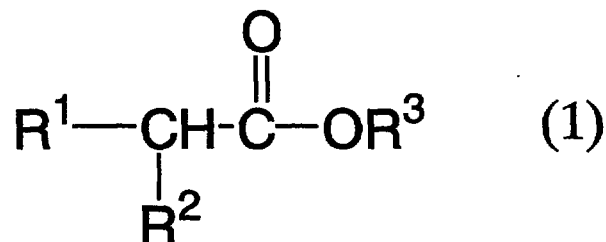


ABSTRACT

The invention provides a lubricating oil for refrigerators, comprising (a) at least one ester represented by the formula (1)



- 5 wherein R¹ is C₁ to C₁₈ straight-chain alkyl or C₃ to C₁₈ branched-chain alkyl; R² is H, C₁ to C₁₈ straight-chain alkyl or C₃ to C₁₈ branched-chain alkyl; with the proviso that the total number of carbons contained in the alkyls represented by R¹ and R² is 2 to 18 and that when R² is H,
- 10 R¹ is branched-chain alkyl; and R³ is C₁ to C₂₀ straight-chain alkyl, C₃ to C₂₀ branched-chain alkyl or C₃ to C₁₀ cycloalkyl, optionally in combination with (b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of fatty acid polyol esters, phthalic acid esters, alicyclic
- 15 dicarboxylic acid esters, polyvinyl ethers, hydrocarbon oils and polyalkylene glycols; as well as a method for lubricating a refrigerator using such a lubricating oil, and a working fluid composition for refrigerators comprising (I) component (a) or components (a) and (b) and
- 20 (II) a refrigerant.