

PROCESS FOR PREPARING 2,6-NAPHTHALENEDICARBOXYLIC ACIDABSTRACT

Provided is a continuous process for producing 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid by the liquid phase oxidation of 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene comprising continuously adding to a reaction zone the oxidation reaction components comprising 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene, a source of molecular oxygen, a solvent comprising an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid, and a catalyst comprising cobalt, manganese and bromine components, wherein the atom ratio of manganese to cobalt is about 5:1 to about 0.3:1, the total of cobalt and manganese is at least about 0.40 weight percent based on the weight of solvent, and maintaining the contents of the reaction zone at a temperature of about 370°F to about 420°F and at a pressure sufficient to maintain at least a portion of the monocarboxylic acid in the liquid phase thereby oxidizing the 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene to 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid. By operating according to the process of this invention, 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid can be continuously produced in high yield and with low levels of impurities.



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