

ABSTRACT

It is an object of the present invention to provide a specific process that enables aromatic carbonates containing diaryl carbonate as a main product to be produced with high selectivity and high productivity stably for a prolonged period of time on an industrial scale of not less than 1 ton per hour from a dialkyl carbonate and an aromatic monohydroxy compound using two continuous multi-stage distillation columns. Although there have been various proposals regarding processes for the production of aromatic carbonates by means of a reactive distillation method, these have all been on a small scale and short operating time laboratory level, and there have been no disclosures whatsoever on a specific process or apparatus enabling mass production on an industrial scale. According to the present invention, there are provided two specified continuous multi-stage distillation columns, and there is also provided a specific process that enables aromatic carbonates containing diaryl carbonate as a main product to be produced with high selectivity and high productivity stably for a prolonged period of time on an industrial scale of not less than 1 ton per hour from a dialkyl carbonate and an aromatic monohydroxy compound containing specific amounts of an alcohol and an aromatic carbonate using an apparatus in which these two continuous multi-stage distillation columns are connected together.