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(71) Applicant: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY [US/US]; 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US).

(72) Inventors: McCLOSKEY, Patrick, Joseph; 10 Meadowbrook Road, Watervliet, NY 12189 (US). REILLY, Warren, William; RD2, Box 2156, Northville, NY 12134 (US). GRIMMOND, Brian, James; 2010 London Square Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065 (US).

(74) Agents: WINTER, Catherine, J. et al.; General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike W3C, Fairfield, CT 06828 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD OF POLYCARBONATE PREPARATION

(57) Abstract: Mixed alkali metal salts of phosphoric acid in combination with a co-catalyst such as tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH) are excellent transesterification catalysts for use in the preparation of polycarbonate from bisphenol A and diphenyl carbonate. The mixed alkali metal phosphate salts were shown by kinetic measurements made on a model system composed of p-tert-octylphenol and bis(p-cumylphenyl) carbonate to be inherently more potent catalysts than salts of phosphoric acid comprising a single alkali metal ion. In addition to providing higher rates of polymerization, the new catalysts were shown to provide polycarbonates containing reduced levels of Fries rearrangement product relative to polymerization reactions catalyzed by conventional catalyst systems such as sodium hydroxide together with TMAH co-catalyst.