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(54) Title: OBTAINING CAPROLACTAM BY DEPOLYMERIZATION OF MOLTEN POLYCAPROLACTAM		
(57) Abstract Caprolactam is obtained from mixtures which contain polymers or thermoplastic molding materials having the repeating unit $[-N(H)-(CH_2)_5-C(O)-]$, (a) by depolymerization at elevated temperatures in the presence of a base under reduced pressure or (b) in the presence of water, by using a mixture essentially comprising, from 50 to 99.9 % by weight of a polymer or of a thermoplastic molding material having the repeating unit $[-N(H)-(CH_2)_5-C(O)-]$; from 0.1 to 50 % by weight of additives selected from the group consisting of inorganic fillers, organic and inorganic pigments and dyes; from 0 to 10 % by weight of organic and/or inorganic additives; from 0 to 40 % by weight of non-polyamide-containing polymers and from 0 to 20 % by weight of polyamides, with the exception of polycaprolactam and copolyamides prepared from caprolactam, and carrying out the depolymerization in the presence of a base under reduced pressure, the water content of the mixture used being not more than 0.01 % by weight, or carrying out the depolymerization in the presence of water without the addition of acid or base at from 270 to 350 °C and a weight ratio of water to polymer or thermoplastic molding material of from 1:1 to 20:1 and in a reaction time of less than 3 hours.		