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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR ISOMERIZATION OF ALPHA OLEFINS AND COMPOSITIONS RESULTING THEREFROM

(57) Abstract: A process for the conversion of C_{16} and/or C_{18} alpha olefins to internal olefins encompasses passing the C_{16} and/or C_{18} alpha olefins through a bed of solid acid silica-alumina catalyst at a maintained operating temperature of between 70° to 140° C. The amount of residual alpha olefin content in the isomerized internal olefin mixture is less than 10 weight percent. The isomerized internal olefin mixture further preferably contains less than 25 weight percent of the C_1, and C_6-C_8 isomers and, optionally, the C_9 isomer when a C_{18} is being converted, the remainder being the C_2-C_5 olefinic isomers. Such isomerized internal olefin mixtures have particular applicability as paper sizing compositions and as drilling fluids.