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ACTION

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(54) Title: METHODS FOR PREPARING AN ALKYLATION CATALYST, AND FOR ORTHO-ALKYLATING HYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS; AND RELATED COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: A method for preparing a solid catalyst composition is described. A magnesium reagent which yields magnesium oxide upon calcination, and which includes reduced levels of chlorides and calcium, is dry-blended with at least one filler. Dry-blending is usually carried out in the absence of a promoter. A method for selectively alkylating at least one hydroxyaromatic compound by using the catalyst is also described. A typical product is 2,6-xylenol. Related processes for preparing polyphenylene ethers are described.