

ABSTRACT

It is an object of the present invention to provide, for the case of continuously producing aromatic carbonates containing a diaryl carbonate as a main product by taking an alkyl aryl carbonate as a starting material, which is obtainable through a transesterification reaction between a dialkyl carbonate and an aromatic monohydroxy compound, using a continuous multi-stage distillation column in which a catalyst is present, and continuously feeding the starting material into the continuous multi-stage distillation column, a specific process that enables the diaryl carbonate 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. 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 is provided a specified continuous multi-stage distillation column, and there is also provided a specific process that enables a diaryl carbonate 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 an alkyl aryl carbonate.