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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/21605 (22) International Filing Date: 12 October 1999 (12.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/218,636 22 December 1998 (22.12.98) US (71) Applicant: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY [US/US]; 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US). (72) Inventor: OFORI, John, Yaw; Apartment B36, 1187 Hillside Avenue, Niskayuna, NY 12309 (US). (74) Agents: SNYDER, Bernard et al.; General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike W3C, Fairfield, CT 06431 (US).		(81) Designated States: BR, CN, IN, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>  *G00002*  *162162*
(54) Title: REMOVAL OF LEAD FROM ORGANIC DIARYL CARBONATE REACTION MIXTURES (57) Abstract <p>A method for efficient removal of lead co-catalyst species from organic process streams arising from diaryl carbonate synthesis, by contacting the organic reaction mixtures with an aqueous acid, salt, or acid/salt solution, thereby extracting the treated mixture into an aqueous phase, or by treating the organic reaction mixtures with solid oxalic acid or oxalic acid salt, or an aqueous solution of oxalic acid or oxalic acid salt, thereby resulting in precipitation of the lead. The precipitated lead may then be calcined to provide a lead compound that is catalytically active in the carbonylation of phenol to yield diaryl carbonates. Use of these methods will substantially reduce both financial and environmental concerns for the preparation of diaryl carbonates.</p>		