CLAIMS:

1. A catalyst comprising iron oxide, nickel, ceria or palladium supported on stainless steel foam.

2. A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the iron oxide, nickel, ceria or palladium is present in an amount of 2 to 15 wt%.

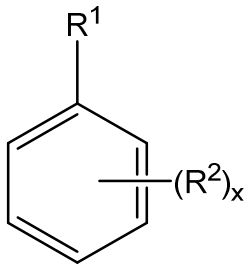
3. A catalyst according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the catalyst comprises iron oxide.

4. A catalyst according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the catalyst comprises nickel.

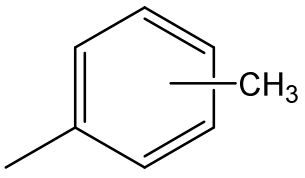
5. A catalyst according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the catalyst comprises ceria.

6. A catalyst according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the catalyst comprises palladium.

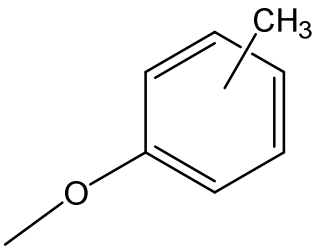
7. A method of oxidising a compound of formula (I):

(I) 

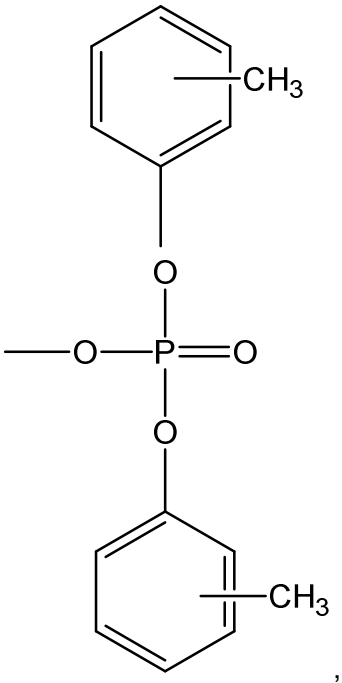
where R^1 is a hydrocarbyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, $-R^2$ is chosen from -OH, a group of formula (II), (III), or (IV)

(II) 

(III)



(IV)



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a hydrocarbyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, -Br, -Cl or -Fl and x is from 0 to 2; and wherein said method comprises heating the compound in a gas containing oxygen in the presence of a catalyst comprising iron oxide, nickel, ceria or palladium supported on stainless steel foam.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the compound in a gas containing oxygen is heated in the presence of said catalyst to a temperature of from 150 °C to 450 °C, or 200 to 400°C.

9. A method of treating air in an air handling system comprising heating the air in the presence of the catalyst comprising iron oxide, nickel, ceria or palladium supported on stainless steel foam.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the air is heated in the presence of said catalyst to a temperature of from 150 °C to 450 °C or 200 to 400°C.

11. A method according to claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the air handling system is an aircraft air handling system.

12. A method according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the iron oxide, nickel, ceria or palladium is present in the catalyst in an amount of 2 to 15 wt%.

13. A method according to any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein the catalyst comprises iron oxide.

14. A catalyst according to any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein the catalyst comprises nickel.

15. A catalyst according to any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein the catalyst comprises ceria.

16. A catalyst according to any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein the catalyst comprises palladium.