

PROCESS FOR THE HYDROXYCARBONYLATION OF LACTONES

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a process for the hydroxycarbonylation of lactones, more precisely of various valerolactones and of their isomers, by reaction with carbon monoxide and water, to form the corresponding diacid.

It consists more precisely in reacting carbon monoxide and water with at least one lactone containing 5 carbon atoms by operating in the presence of an effective quantity of an iridium catalyst and of a iodinated or brominated promoter, the promoter/Ir molar ratio being between 0.1:1 and 20:1.

This process makes it possible especially to convert gamma-valerolactone profitably to adipic acid.