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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR ISOMERIZATION OF ALPHA OLEFINS AND COMPOSITIONS RESULTING THEREFROM

(57) Abstract: A process for the conversion of C₁₆ and/or C₁₈ alpha olefins to internal olefins encompasses passing the C₁₆ and/or C₁₈ alpha olefins through a bed of solid acid silica-alumina catalyst at a maintained operating temperature of between 70° to 140° C. The amount of residual alpha olefin content in the isomerized internal olefin mixture is less than 10 weight percent. The isomerized internal olefin mixture further preferably contains less than 25 weight percent of the C₁, and C₆-C₈ isomers and, optionally, the C₉ isomer when a C₁₈ is being converted, the remainder being the C₂-C₅ olefinic isomers. Such isomerized internal olefin mixtures have particular applicability as paper sizing compositions and as drilling fluids.



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