Abstract

Process for the manufacture of lactams

The present invention relates to a process for the manufacture of lactams.

It relates more particularly to a process for the manufacture of lactams from alkyl cyanovalerate compounds obtained by using, as starting materials, in particular unsaturated mononitrile compounds and more particularly pentenenitriles, such as 2-, 3- or 4-pentenenitrile, taken in isolation or as a mixture, and referred to below as PN for the mixture and 2PN, 3PN and 4PN respectively. This process consists in carrying out the hydrogenation and the cyclization of the alkyl cyanovalerate to give ε-caprolactam without intermediate separation of the alkyl aminocaproate.

NO FIGURE