

ABSTRACT

PROCESS

A process is described for the production of cyclohexanedimethanol by hydrogenation of a dialkyl cyclohexanedicarboxylate which comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a hydrogenation zone containing a charge of a granular reduced manganese promoted copper catalyst;
- (b) forming a vaporous feed stream of a hydrogenatable material comprising a dialkyl cyclohexanedicarboxylate and from about 0.1 wt% up to about 15 wt% of an acidic material at a feed temperature which is in the range of from about 150°C to about 350°C and which is above the dew point of the feed stream and at a feed pressure which is in the range of from about 150 psia (about 10.34 bar) up to about 2000 psia (about 137.90 bar), said vaporous mixture having a known hydrogen-containing gas:dialkyl cyclohexanedicarboxylate ratio;
- (c) supplying the vaporous feed stream to the hydrogenation zone;
- (d) maintaining hydrogenation conditions in the hydrogenation zone which are effective to maintain the reaction mixture in contact with the catalyst above its dew point;
- (e) passing the vaporous feed stream through the hydrogenation zone: and
- (f) recovering from the hydrogenation zone a product stream comprising cyclohexanedimethanol.

