

Process for preparing phthalic anhydride

Abstract

A process is proposed for preparing phthalic anhydride by catalytic partial oxidation of o-xylene and/or naphthalene with a gas comprising oxygen in a plant comprising

- two or more reaction zones cooled with a coolant,
- one or more devices arranged between the reaction zones for intermediate cooling of the reaction mixture between the reaction zones, the temperature of the coolant on entry into the second or into the further reaction zones decreasing compared to the temperature of the coolant on entry into the first reaction zone,

wherein the temperature of the coolant on entry into the first reaction zone is more than 20° higher than the temperature of the coolant on entry into the second or into the further reaction zones.

(Figure 1)