

PROCESS FOR THE HYDROLYSIS OF AN ALKYL DICARBOXYLATE**ABSTRACT**

The present invention consists of a process for the preparation of a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis in the liquid phase of a C_1 - C_4 alkyl aliphatic dicarboxylate, characterised in that a mixture of the said alkyl dicarboxylate and water is subjected to a reactive distillation, by introduction of the said mixture into the middle part of a column containing a gel-type resin, containing sulphonic acid groups, maintained in place using a support and having the following characteristics:

- a skeleton based on styrene and divinylbenzene, the level of divinylbenzene by weight with respect to the total weight of the said skeleton being between 1 % and

12 %,

- an exchange capacity of 3 to

6.5 milliequivalents H^+ /gram of dry resin,
and by continuous distillation of the alcohol formed by
the hydrolysis reaction.