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(54) Title: PROCESS TO REMOVE SILANOL FROM THE PREPARATION OF A MODIFIED POLYMER

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for a preparation of a polymer selected from the following: (a) modified inter-polymer comprising, in polymerized form, a conjugated diene and an aromatic alpha-olefin, or (b) a modified polymer comprising, in polymerized form, a conjugated diene; and wherein said method comprising at least the following steps: polymerizing monomers comprising at least one conjugated diene monomer in at least one polymerization reactor, in the presence of at least one solvent, to form the polymer, optionally coupling a fraction of the polymer chains using at least one coupling agent, modifying the polymer with at least one modifying agent, in at least one reactor, in the presence of the at least one solvent, to form a modified polymer solution; optionally, contacting the modified polymer solution with at least one proton donating compound; contacting the modified polymer solution with water; removing the at least one solvent; contacting the removed solvent with at least one material that will react with, and/or absorb, silanol to form a purified solvent, recirculating the purified solvent back to the at least one polymerization reactor or to a storage container.



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