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(54) Title: DRILLING FLUIDS AND METHOD OF DRILLING

(57) Abstract: Drilling, completing or workover of a well, particularly an oil and/or gas well, is carried out using a fluid which includes a continuous phase including an ester of the formula (I): $(R^2)_p$-Ph-$(CH_2)_m$-COO-$(AO)_n$-R^1 where R^1, AO, n, m, Ph, R^2 and p have defined meanings and particularly where the esters are alkyl or alkenyl benzoate esters. These esters are beneficial by having a range of viscosities, especially extending to low viscosities, and attractive toxicological and environmental profiles for use in drilling, completion and/or workover of wells.