

ABSTRACT

A process for producing aromatic carbonates, which comprises transesterifying, in the presence of a metal-containing catalyst, a starting material selected from a dialkyl carbonate, an alkyl aryl carbonate and a mixture thereof with a reactant selected from an aromatic monohydroxy compound, an alkyl aryl carbonate and a mixture thereof, characterized in that: at least one type of catalyst-containing liquid is taken out, wherein the catalyst-containing liquid is selected from a portion of a high boiling point reaction mixture obtained by the above transesterification and containing the desired aromatic carbonate and the metal-containing catalyst, and a portion of a liquid catalyst fraction obtained by separating the desired aromatic carbonate from the high boiling point reaction mixture, wherein each portion contains (A) high boiling point substance having a boiling point higher than the boiling point of the produced aromatic carbonate and (B) the metal-containing catalyst; (C) a functional substance capable of reacting with at least one component selected from high boiling point substance (A) and metal-containing catalyst (B) is added to the taken-out catalyst-containing liquid; and the (B)/(C) reaction product is recycled to the reaction system, while withdrawing the (A)/(C) reaction product. By the process of the present invention, the desired aromatic carbonates having high purity can be produced stably for a prolonged period of time.