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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP96/00812 ✓ (22) International Filing Date: 27 February 1996 (27.02.96) ✓ (30) Priority Data: 9504034.1 ✓ 28 February 1995 (28.02.95) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS INC. [US/US]; 1900 East Linden Avenue, Linden, NJ 07036 (US). ✓ (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ALCOCK, Kenneth [GB/GB]; 28 Green Close, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8TA (GB). MOULIN, Dominique [FR/FR]; 7, rue Pierre- Corneille, F-76330 Notre-Dame-de-Gravenchon (FR). CLEVERLAY, John, Arthur [GB/GB]; Tyjair, 9 Elbourne, Barleyfields, Dicot, Oxfordshire OX11 0BL (GB). BOV- INGTON, Charles, Herbert [GB/GB]; Ashbourne, Kings Lane, Longcot, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7SS (GB). (74) Agents: MANSELL, Keith, Rodney et al.; Exxon Chemical Limited, Exxon Chemical Technology Centre, P.O. Box 1, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX13 6BB (GB).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, MX, NZ, RU, <u>SG</u> US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
(54) Title: LOW BASE NUMBER SULPHONATES (57) Abstract Low base number (LBN) sulphonates derived from high molecular weight sulphonic acids have low viscosity, are chloride free and are not skin sensitizers. In their preparation, neutralisation of high molecular weight sulphonic acids or partially neutralised soaps of high molecular weight sulphonic acids is completed by the use of a high base number sulphonate in conjunction with a carboxylic acid. The process does not require the use of chloride containing promoters and produces low chloride products which do not skin on exposure to air.		