

METHOD FOR HYDROXYLATING AROMATIC COMPOUNDS

ABSTRACT

Aromatic compounds such as benzene, toluene and
5 xylene are hydroxylated by reaction with oxygen and hydroquinone or
a substituted hydroquinone in the presence of a vanadium compound,
typically a pentavalent vanadium oxy chelate with picolinic acid or a
substituted picolinic acid. The vanadium compound may be produced
in situ by reaction of the chelating agent with a tetravalent or
10 pentavalent precursor vanadium compound.