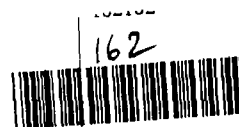


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The specification discloses a method for the manufacture of a fluorescent polyphenolic product with high UV absorbance, its subsequent epoxidation as well as polyphenolic products and epoxidized derivatives and compositions thereof. The polyphenolic products are prepared by heating glyoxal at a temperature of about 80° C to about 100° C with a molar excess of a phenol in the presence of an acidic catalyst which is eliminated from the reaction mixture at a temperature below about 170° C. The total mole ratio of glyoxal to phenol charged to the reaction mixture is about 0.15 to 0.22 moles of glyoxal for each mole of phenol. The glyoxal is added continuously or by stepwise additions to the phenol so as to keep the aldehyde units in the reaction mixture to less than about 70% of the aldehyde units in the total quantity of glyoxal to be charged for making the polyphenol. Water is distilled stepwise or continuously from the reaction mixture. The catalyst is removed from the reaction mixture by further distilling the reaction mixture, generally at higher temperatures. After removal of the catalyst, unreacted phenol is removed by distillation and the reaction mixture is heated at a temperature of about 175° C to 200° C for about 0.25 hours to about 3 hours to produce a polyphenolic reaction product having high fluorescence, high UV absorbance and high solubility in organic solvents. The polyphenolic reaction product can be epoxidized by conventional means and such epoxy products used in the manufacture of laminates, coatings and adhesives.



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