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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ESTERS OF STILBENEDICARBOXYLIC ACID

(57) Abstract

Disclosed is a process for the preparation of 4,4'-stilbenedicarboxylate esters by a 3-step process utilizing p-toluic acid, an alkyl p-formylbenzoate and a trialkyl phosphite. The steps comprise: (1) preparing p-(chloromethyl)benzoic acid by chlorinating p-toluic acid with sulfuryl chloride in the presence of a free radical initiator and chlorobenzene or dichlorobenzene; (2) contacting the p-(chloromethyl)benzoic acid of step (1) with a trialkyl phosphite to obtain a phosphonate compound; and (3) contacting the phosphonate ester compound of step (2) with an alkyl p-formylbenzoate in the presence of an alkali metal alkoxide and an inert solvent to obtain the dialkyl 4,4'-stilbenedicarboxylate.