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A B S T R A C T

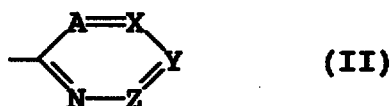
CARBONYLATION CATALYST SYSTEM

A catalyst system, which comprises

- a) a source of a Group VIII metal, and
- b) a phosphine of general formula:



in which R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from an optionally substituted aryl group and a group of general formula:



wherein each of A, X, Y and Z is independently selected from a nitrogen atom, a CH group and a group of formula CR wherein R represents a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an amido group, a cyano group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, a halogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group or an optionally substituted hydrocarbyloxy group, it also being possible for two adjacent CR groups to form a ring, provided that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 represents a group of formula (II) in which at least one of A and Z represents a group of formula CR; or an acid addition salt thereof.

Also disclosed are novel phosphines, and the use of the catalyst system in the selective carbonylation of unsaturated hydrocarbons.

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