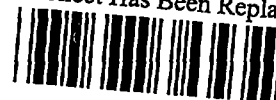


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a process for preparing an aromatic polyamide which comprises:

- 5 (A) a dicarboxylic acid component unit comprising 30 to 100 mol% of a terephthalic acid component unit, and, as required, 0 to 70 mol% of a cyclic dicarboxylic acid component unit other than the terephthalic acid and, as required, 0 to 15 mol% of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid
- 10 having 7 to 20 carbon atoms; and
- (B) a diamine unit comprising 50 to 100 mol% of a component unit derived from an aliphatic alkylene diamine having 4 to 25 carbon atoms, and 0 to 50 mol% of a component unit derived from an alicyclic diamine having 3
- 15 to 25 carbon atoms; said process comprising:
- a step (i) of preparing a solid low-degree condensation product having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]_1$ of from 0.05 to 0.2 dl/g is prepared by the polycondensation reaction of the dicarboxylic acid with the diamine;
- 20 a step (ii) of solid-phase polymerizing said low-degree condensation product at a temperature of not higher than 195°C to prepare a solid-phase polymerized product having having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]_2$ satisfying the following relationship [I],
- 25 $[\eta]_2 - [\eta]_1 = 0.02 \text{ to } 0.1 \text{ dl/g}$ --- [I]
- and;
- a step (iii) of further solid-phase polymerizing said solid-phase polymerized product to obtain an aromatic polyamide having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]_3$ of from 0.15
- 30 to 1.1 dl/g and a ratio $[\eta]_3/[\eta]_2$ of not smaller than 1.0.

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