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PRODUCTION OF ETHYLTOLUENE

Abstract

Ethyltoluene is produced by ethylating toluene in the presence of a ZSM-5 catalyst of controlled acidity and diffusivity to produce an ethyltoluene isomer mixture which is high in the content of the meta isomer and very low in the ortho isomer. The weight ratio of the meta isomer to the para-isomer is at least 1:1, preferably at least 1.2:1 while the ortho isomer is kept below 1.5%, preferably below 0.5%. The product ethyltoluene may be dehydrogenated to form polymerization grade vinyl toluene.

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