

ABSTRACT

The object of the invention is to provide a process for preparing a cyano group-containing methylamine, comprising hydrogenating only one of the two nitrile groups of an aromatic dinitrile, wherein the aromatic dinitrile is reacted at a high conversion ratio using a small amount of a catalyst under the conditions of a low temperature and a low pressure to prepare a cyano group-containing aromatic methylamine in a high yield.

10 According to the invention, in the preparation of a cyano group-containing methylamine from an aromatic dinitrile, at least one of a Raney catalyst activated by bringing it into contact with hydrogen in a solvent (activated Raney catalyst) and a Raney catalyst
15 regenerated by bringing it into contact with hydrogen in a solvent in the presence of an alkali (regenerated Raney catalyst) is employed. In the preferred embodiment, the activated Raney catalyst is used in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by weight, preferably 0.5 to 5 %
20 by weight, based on the aromatic dinitrile, and/or the regenerated Raney catalyst is used in an amount of 0.1 to 50 % by weight, preferably 0.5 to 20 % by weight, based on the aromatic dinitrile. The activated Raney catalyst is preferably a Raney catalyst activated in a
25 solvent in a hydrogen atmosphere and containing nickel

and/or cobalt. The regenerated Raney catalyst is preferably a Raney catalyst regenerated by bringing a Raney catalyst having been used for preparing a cyano group-containing aromatic methylamine from an aromatic
5 dinitrile into contact with hydrogen in a solvent in the presence of an alkali.