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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF DIARYL CARBONATE

(57) Abstract: Diaryl carbonate is prepared by reaction of an aromatic alcohol with a dialkyl carbonate, which dialkyl carbonate has been prepared by the reaction of an alkanol and an alkylene carbonate, which process comprises the following steps : (a) passing an aromatic alcohol and a dialkyl carbonate into a first transesterification zone to obtain a first product stream containing diaryl carbonate, alkanol, unconverted dialkyl carbonate and unconverted aromatic alcohol; (b) separating the first product stream into a diaryl carbonate-rich product stream, an aromatic alcohol-rich recycle stream and a second recycle stream comprising alkanol, dialkyl carbonate and aromatic alcohol; (c) feeding alkanol and alkylene carbonate into a second transesterification zone to obtain a second product stream comprising alkanediol and unconverted alkanol and dialkyl carbonate; (d) separating alkanediol from the second product stream to yield an alkanediol product stream and a mixture of dialkyl carbonate and unconverted alkanol; (e) subjecting the mixture of dialkyl carbonate and unconverted alkanol and the second recycle stream comprising alkanol, dialkyl carbonate and aromatic alcohol to the same distillation to obtain an alkanol stream as the lower-boiling fraction and a contaminated stream comprising dialkyl carbonate and aromatic alcohol as the higher-boiling fraction; (f) recycling the alkanol stream of step e) to the second transesterification zone; and (g) passing the contaminated stream comprising dialkyl carbonate and aromatic alcohol, and the aromatic alcohol-rich recycle stream to the first transesterification zone.

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