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(54) Title: CATALYST COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING DIARYL CARBONATES

(57) Abstract: Hydroxyaromatic compounds such as phenol are carbonylated with oxygen and carbon monoxide in the presence of a catalyst system comprising a Group VIII metal, preferably palladium; an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal halide, preferably sodium bromide; and at least one sulfone such as sulfolane. The catalyst system also preferably contains a compound of another metal, preferably lead.

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