

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

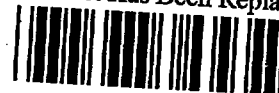
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Abstract

In a process for esterifying (meth)acrylic acid with an alkanol in the presence of an acidic esterification catalyst, in which unconverted starting compounds and the (meth)acrylates to be formed are separated off by
10 distillation and an oxyester-containing bottom product is formed, the bottom product is separated off and is heated in the presence of an acid to 150-250°C and the pressure is adjusted so that the cleavage products formed under the abovementioned conditions from the oxyesters contained in the bottom product evaporate directly. The process can be carried out in the
15 presence of molecular oxygen. Mineral acids, for example sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid and/or alkanesulfonic or arylsulfonic acids, for example methanesulfonic acid or p-toluenesulfonic acid, can be added to the bottom product.

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