ABSTRACT

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING LOWER OLEFINS

A process for the production of lower olefins by dehydrating lower alcohols having 2 to 4 carbon atoms which comprises using a γ-alumina catalyst containing 0.3% by weight or less of impurities in total excluding SiO_2, the impurities including 0.2% by weight or less of sulfur content calculated in terms of SO_4^{--} and 0.05% by weight or less of sodium content calculated in terms of Na_2O, and/or a process for the production of lower olefins by dehydrating lower alcohols having 2 to 4 carbon atoms that comprises using a γ-alumina catalyst which contains 0.5 to 5% by weight of SiO_2.

According to the process of the present invention, lower olefins can be produced from lower alcohols with high yield and high selectivity for a prolonged period of time without reducing the catalytic activity.

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