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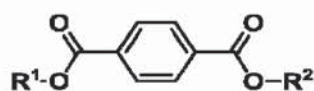
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(54) Title: TEREPHTHALIC ACID ESTERS FORMATION



(I)

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure relates to the formation of terephthalate esters of Formula (I) which are formed by the depolymerization of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or poly(ethylene glycol-co-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol terephthalate). The depolymerization process comprises contacting polyethylene terephthalate or poly(ethylene glycol-co-1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol terephthalate) with a solvent for swelling the polyester, an alcoholic solvent, and a sub-stoichiometric amount of an alkoxide. In the Formula (I) R¹ and R² are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 haloalkyl, C1-C6 hydroxyalkyl, optionally substituted C3-C8 cycloalkyl, optionally substituted (C1-C6 alkyl)(C3-C8 cycloalkyl), optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted (C1-C6 alkyl)(aryl); provided that one of R¹ or R² is not hydrogen.

