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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): UNION CARBIDE CHEMICALS & PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY LLC [US/US]; 2020 Dow Center, Midland, Michigan 48674 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KING, Stephen W. [US/US]; 3958 Lake Star Drive, League City, Texas 77573 (US). HOFFMAN, William, C. [US/US]; 572 Roxalana Hills Drive, Dunbar, West Virginia 25064 (US).
- (74) Agents: LILLY, James, V. et al.; Kagan Binder, PLLC, Suite 200, Maple Island Building, 221 Main Street North, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 (US).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TRANSALKOXYLATION OF NUCLEOPHILIC COMPOUNDS

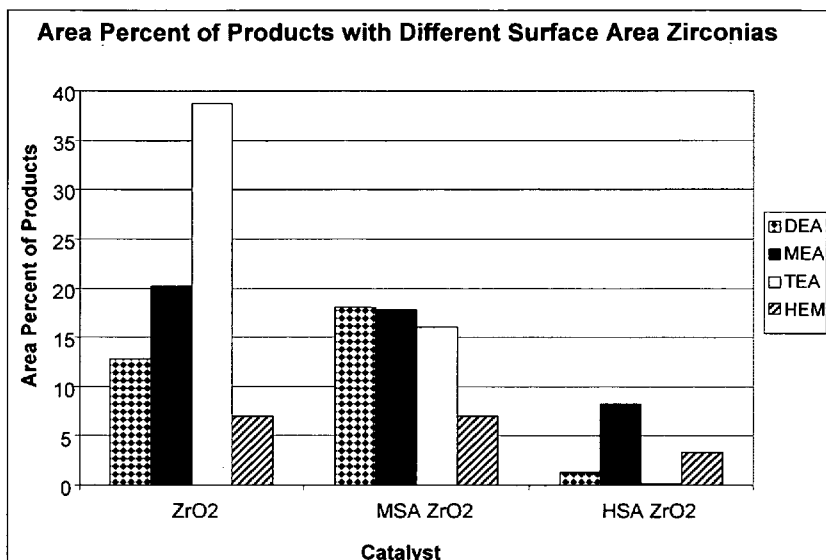


FIG. 5. Area percent of products with zirconia catalysts of different surface areas.

Reactions were run at 325 °C and with a 5% O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> gas feed.

(57) Abstract: A method of transalkoxylation of nucleophilic compounds in which an alkoxyated and a nucleophilic compound are combined in a suitable vessel and reacted in the presence of a heterogeneous catalyst under conditions capable of transferring at least one hydroxyalkyl group from the alkoxyated compound to the nucleophilic compound. The method is especially useful in the transalkoxylation of alkanolamines to transfer a hydroxyalkyl group from an alkanolamine having a greater number of hydroxyalkyl groups to an alkanolamine having a lesser number of hydroxyalkyl groups.

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<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	US 5 721 305 A (ESHUIS JOHAN JAN W [NL] ET AL) 24 February 1998 (1998-02-24) examples 1-3	1-3
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</span>		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <p style="text-align: center;">Panday, Narendra</p>	

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