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Applicant: **NIPPON PAINT CO., LTD.**
2-1-2, Oyodokita Kita-ku
Osaka-shi Osaka-fu(JP)

 Applicant: **ASAHI DENKA KOGYO KABUSHIKI**
KAISHA
2-35, Higashiogu 7-chome
Arakawa-ku Tokyo 116(JP)

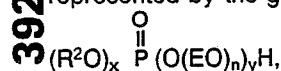
 Inventor: **Miyamoto, Satoshi**
A3-108, 3-6 Minami-machi, Shinsenri
Toyonaka-shi, Osaka-fu(JP)
 Inventor: **Kawasaki, Isao, Nippon Paint**
Kawasaki-ryo
1243, Kitakase, Saiwai-ku
Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken(JP)
 Inventor: **Komiya, Kaoru**
3-7-32 Kokubunjidai
Ebina-shi, Kanagawa-ken(JP)

 Representative: **Hansen, Bernd, Dr.rer.nat. et**
al
Hoffmann, Eitle & Partner Patentanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4 Postfach 81 04 20
D-8000 München 81(DE)

Surfactant composition, degreasing composition and degreasing bath.

The degreasing composition comprises a surfactant composition comprising a compound (a) represented by the general formula:

$$R^1O(AO)_nH,$$
 wherein R^1 is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms; A is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group, provided that an ethylene group in A is 5 mol or more per 1 mol of R^1 , and that the ethylene group is 50 mol % or more per 100 mol % of the A; and n is an integer of 5 - 50; and a compound (b) represented by the general formula:



wherein R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and $x + y = 3$,
 in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5, and further comprises an alkali builder in a weight ratio [(compound (a) + compound (b))/alkali builder] of 1:0.1 - 1:2,000.

SURFACTANT COMPOSITION, DEGREASING COMPOSITION AND DEGREASING BATH

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

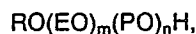
The present invention relates to a surfactant composition, and a degreasing composition and a degreasing bath containing the surfactant composition, and more particularly to a surfactant composition suitable for a degreasing composition having excellent detergency and antifoaming properties at room temperature, and a degreasing composition and a degreasing bath containing such surfactant composition.

In the chemical coating of metal surfaces, degreasing is usually conducted to remove oil substances (mineral oils, animal or vegetable fats and oils, etc.) from the surfaces of metal members to be formed with chemical coatings.

Degreasing detergents used for degreasing treatments contain as main components builders based on acids or alkalis and nonionic surfactants, and they are used in the form of aqueous solutions by a spraying method or an immersion method at 40 - 70 °C for 1 - 10 minutes.

However, in view of the recent demands of saving energy, detergents capable of removing oils at lower temperatures such as 5 - 40 °C are desired.

As such detergents, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 61-60892 discloses an alkali detergent usable at room temperature which contains polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether as a surfactant. The polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether in this detergent has the following general formula:



wherein

R: Alkyl group,

EO: Ethylene oxide group,

P O: Propylene oxide group, and

m,n : Moles.

However, although this detergent has improved detergency at room temperature, the level of detergency is still insufficient.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a surfactant composition having excellent detergency at room temperature which is equal to or even higher than under heated conditions (40 °C or higher), with little foaming.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a degreasing composition having excellent detergency at room temperature which is equal to or even higher than under heated conditions (40 °C or higher), with little foaming.

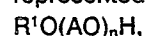
A further object of the present invention is to provide a degreasing bath having excellent detergency at room temperature which is equal to or even higher than under heated conditions (40 °C or higher), with little foaming.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a degreasing composition and a degreasing bath showing excellent detergency even when oil materials are accumulated.

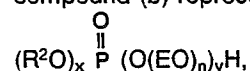
As a result of intense research in view of the above objects, the inventors of the present invention have found that a surfactant composition obtained by mixing a polyoxyalkylene ether-type nonionic surfactant containing a predetermined amount of ethylene group with a phosphate-polyethylene oxide adduct shows excellent detergency and antifoaming properties at room temperature when combined with an alkali builder.

The present invention is based upon this finding.

Thus, the surfactant composition according to the present invention comprises a compound (a) represented by the general formula:

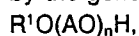


wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms; A is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group, provided that an ethylene group in A is 5 mol % or more per 1 mol % of R¹, and that the ethylene group is 50 mol or more per 100 mol of the A; and n is an integer of 5 - 50; and a compound (b) represented by the general formula:

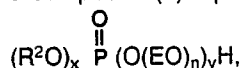


wherein R² is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and x + y = 3, in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5.

The degreasing composition according to the present invention comprises a compound (a) represented by the general formula:



wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms; A is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group, provided that an ethylene group in A is 5 mol or more per 1 mol of R¹, and that the ethylene group is 50 mol % or more per 100 mol % of the A; and n is an integer of 5 - 50; and a compound (b) represented by the general formula:

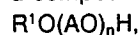


wherein R² is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and x + y = 3, in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5, and further comprising an alkali builder in a weight ratio [(compound (a) + compound (b))/alkali builder] of 1:0.1 - 1:2,000.

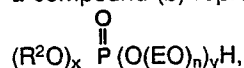
The degreasing bath according to the present invention comprises:

(1) 0.005 - 0.5 weight % of a surfactant composition comprising:

a compound (a) represented by the general formula:



wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms; A is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group, provided that an ethylene group in A is 5 mol or more per 1 mol of R¹, and that the ethylene group is 50 mol % or more per 100 mol % of the A; and n is an integer of 5 - 50; and a compound (b) represented by the general formula:

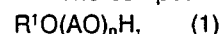


wherein R² is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and x + y = 3, in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5; and

(2) 0.05 - 10 weight of an alkali builder.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The compound (a) used in the present invention is represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein n is an integer of 5 - 50.

In the above general formula (1), R¹ is, as described below in detail, a hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms. When the number of carbon atoms is 5 or less, sufficient surfactant activity cannot be obtained, failing to provide good detergency.

"A" in the above general formula (1) is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group. Incidentally, the number of the ethylene group in "A" is 5 mol or more per 1 mol of R¹. When the ethylene group is less than 5 mol, the resulting surfactant composition does not have sufficient detergency. Further, the proportion of the ethylene group in "A" is 50 mol % or more per 100 mol % of "A." When the proportion of the ethylene group is lower than 50 mol %, the resulting surfactant composition does not show sufficient detergency. Incidentally, the antifoaming properties of the surfactant composition according to the present invention can be freely adjusted by changing the proportion of the ethylene group relative to 100 mol % of "A" in the compound (a) within the above range.

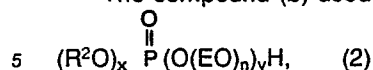
The number (n) of an AO group in the compound (a) is 5 - 50. When the number (n) of the AO group is less than 5, sufficient detergency cannot be obtained. On the other hand, when n exceeds 50, detergency also becomes insufficient.

Thus, for instance, when n = 5, "A" is completely composed of an ethylene group. And when n is 6 or more, a portion exceeding 5 may be a group other than the ethylene group. In this case, the ethylene group should be 50 mol % or more based on the total "A."

Incidentally, as long as the content of an oxyethylene group meets the above requirement, the AO

group may be contained in the compound (a) in the form of random addition, block addition or a mixture of block addition and random addition.

The compound (b) used in the present invention is represented by the following general formula:



wherein R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and $x + y = 3$.

In the above general formula (2), R^2 is a hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms. When the number of carbon atoms is 5 or less, good detergency cannot be obtained.

10 The mole number (n) of an oxyethylene group represented by EO is 1 - 20. When there is no oxyethylene group or when the oxyethylene group exceeds 20 mol, sufficient detergency cannot be obtained.

Incidentally, R^1 and R^2 in the compound (a) and the compound (b) used in the present invention may be the same or different from each other, and as long as they are hydrocarbon groups having 6 or more carbon atoms, they may be substituted or unsubstituted. Typical examples of R^1 and R^2 are alkyl groups such as a hexyl group, an octyl group, a decyl group, a dodecyl group, a stearyl group; alkenyl groups such as an oleyl group; cycloalkyl groups such as a cyclohexyl group; alkyl-substituted or phenyl-substituted phenyl groups such as a xylene group, an octyl phenyl group, a nonyl phenyl group, a dodecyl phenyl group, a dinonyl phenyl group, a paracumyl phenyl group, a styrene-added phenyl group; an unsubstituted phenyl group, etc.

In the surfactant composition of the present invention, the compound (a) and the compound (b) may be used in combination.

With respect to the weight ratio of the compound (a) to the compound (b) in the surfactant composition of the present invention, compound (a)/compound (b) is 10/90 - 95/5, preferably 25/75 - 75/25. When the weight ratio of the compound (a) to the compound (b) is lower than 10/90 or larger than 95/5, sufficient detergency cannot be obtained.

Next, the degreasing composition of the present invention will be described below.

The degreasing composition of the present invention comprises the above surfactant composition containing the compound (a) and the compound (b) in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5 and an alkali builder.

The alkali builders which may be used in the present invention include alkali metal salts, alkali phosphate, alkali carbonates, alkali silicates, alkali nitrites, alkali borates, etc., and they may be used alone or in combination.

In the degreasing composition of the present invention, a proportion of the alkali builder to the surfactant composition [weight ratio of (compound (a) + compound (b))/alkali builder] is 1:0.1 - 1:2000, preferably 1:1 - 1:100.

When the weight ratio of [(compound (a) + compound (b))/alkali builder] is less than 1:0.1, the decrease in detergency does not substantially take place, but it is difficult to maintain a pH for suppressing the corrosion of metal members to be treated. On the other hand, when the weight ratio exceeds 1:2000, the concentration of the surfactant composition in the degreasing detergent composition becomes too low, resulting in insufficient detergency.

Incidentally, depending upon degreasing facilities, the degreasing composition of the present invention may further contain 5-100 parts by weight of an antifoaming agent per 100 parts by weight of the surfactant composition. When the amount of the antifoaming agent is less than 5 parts by weight, sufficient improvement of antifoaming properties cannot be obtained, and when it exceeds 100 parts by weight, the detergency of the degreasing composition decreases.

The antifoaming agents include higher alcohols, higher ethers, higher aliphatic acids, higher aliphatic acid esters, and alkyl alkylates or alkyl phenol alkylates having HLB values of 10 or less, polypropylene glycols polyethylene glycol ethers, etc. having cloud points of 40 °C or lower, and they may be used alone or in combination.

Next, the degreasing bath of the present invention will be described.

The degreasing bath of the present invention contains the above surfactant composition and the alkali builder.

The amount of the surfactant composition is 0.005 - 0.5 weight %, preferably 0.05 - 0.3 weight %. When the amount of the surfactant composition is lower than 0.005 weight %, sufficient degreasing activity cannot be obtained. When it exceeds 0.5 weight %, further increase in degreasing activity cannot be achieved.

The amount of the alkali builder is 0.05 - 10 weight %, preferably 1 - 5 weight %. When the amount of

the alkali builder is less than 0.05 weight %, the degreasing detergent solution has a low pH, making it likely that the metal members to be treated are rusted, and making it difficult to emulsify oil materials removed from the metal members being treated. On the other hand, when the amount of the alkali builder exceeds 10 weight %, it is difficult to dissolve the alkali builder, deteriorating operability.

5 The composition of the degreasing bath of the present invention can be adjusted by introducing the surfactant composition and the alkali builder separately into a degreasing bath (hereinafter called "separate system") or by mixing them in advance and then introducing the resulting mixture into the degreasing bath (hereinafter called "premixed system").

10 As far as the operability is concerned, the premixed system is preferable, but from the viewpoint of stability with time, the separate system is preferable. In the case of the premixed system, the amount of the alkali builder is preferably 80 weight % or more based on the surfactant composition to avoid swelling.

As described above, the surfactant composition of the present invention comprises the compound (a) which is a particular polyoxyalkylene ether-type nonionic surfactant, and the compound (b) which is a phosphate-ethylene oxide adduct in a particular proportion. The compound (a) itself does not have sufficient
15 detergency at room temperature, and the compound (b) itself does not have detergency at all. Nevertheless, a combination of the compound (a) and the compound (b) provides a degreasing detergent with good detergency. The reason therefor is not necessarily clear, but it may be considered that a synergistic effect between the compound (a) and the compound (b) serves to increase the detergency of the compound (a), while providing the degreasing detergent with good antifoaming properties.

20 Further, the degreasing bath of the present invention utilizing the synergistic effect of the compound (a) and the compound (b) can maintain degreasing detergency and antifoaming properties equally at start and even after oil accumulation in the bath.

The present invention will be described in further detail by means of the following Examples.

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Synthesis of Compound (a)

As the compound (a), the following compounds A1 - A9 are synthesized by adding alkylene oxides to various alcohols and phenols having various R¹ groups in the general formula (1), in the presence of an
30 alkali catalyst by a usual method.

A1: 7.5 mol of ethylene oxide added to lauryl alcohol.

A2: 10 mol of ethylene oxide added to lauryl alcohol.

A3: 20 mol of ethylene oxide added to lauryl alcohol.

A4: 8 mol of ethylene oxide added to octyl alcohol.

35 A5: 10 mol of ethylene oxide added to nonyl phenol.

A6: 15 mol of ethylene oxide added to styrene-added phenol.

A7: 10 mol of ethylene oxide block and 3 mol of propylene block added to nonyl phenol.

A8: 10 mol of ethylene oxide and 7 mol of propylene oxide added to nonyl phenol in random.

A9: 10 mol of ethylene oxide block and 2 mol of propylene oxide block added to nonyl phenol.

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Synthesis of Compound (b)

As the compound (b), the following compounds B1 - B6 are synthesized by preparing phosphates of
45 various alcohols and phenols having R² groups in the formula (2) using phosphorus pentoxide by a usual method, and then adding ethylene oxide thereto in the presence of an alkali catalyst by a usual method.

B1: 3 mol of ethylene oxide added to lauryl alcohol phosphate.

B2: 5 mol of ethylene oxide added to lauryl alcohol phosphate.

B3: 12 mol of ethylene oxide added to lauryl alcohol phosphate.

50 B4: 5 mol of ethylene oxide added to octyl alcohol phosphate.

B5: 10 mol of ethylene oxide added to nonyl phenol phosphate.

B6: 9 mol of ethylene oxide added to paracumyl phenol phosphate.

55 Synthesis of Compound (c)

For comparison with the compound (b), the following compound C1 is synthesized by adding 10 mol of ethylene oxide to 1 mol of nonyl phenyl having an R² group in the general formula (2) in the presence of an

alkali catalyst by a usual method, and preparing a phosphate thereof by using phosphorus pentoxide by a usual method.

C1: Phosphate of a nonyl phenol -10 mol ethylene oxide adduct.

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Examples 1 - 17, Comparative Examples 1 - 16

Each of surfactant compositions containing the above compounds A1 - A9, B1 - B6 and C1 as shown in Table 1 is mixed with an alkali builder in a proportion shown in Table 2 to prepare each degreasing composition.

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2 parts by weight of each degreasing composition is mixed with 98 parts by weight of water to prepare each degreasing detergent solution bath.

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Evaluation of Detergency

With respect to each degreasing detergent solution, detergency is evaluated at start (fresh composition) and after oil accumulation in the bath.

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(1) Detergency at Start

Each degreasing detergent solution is introduced into a 50.0 ml-beaker and kept at 15° C. A steel test piece (JIS G-3141) is immersed in the solution, and the solution is stirred at 200 rpm for 10 minutes. Thereafter, the steel test piece is removed and rinsed by running water for 30 seconds to measure water wettability of the steel test piece surface. This is regarded as detergency at start. Incidentally, the detergency is regarded as 100% when the entire surface of the steel test piece is still wet with water 30 seconds after the removal from the bath, and the water wettability is expressed by percentage of surface area wet with water observed by the naked eye.

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(2) Detergency after Oil Accumulation

With respect to the above degreasing composition mixed with 2000 ppm of an anti-corrosion oil ("Anti-rust P1400," manufactured by Nippon Oil Co., Ltd.), a water wettability is measured on the steel test piece surface in the same method as in the detergency at start, and it is evaluated as detergency after oil accumulation.

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The evaluation results of each detergency are shown in Table 1.

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Table 1

5	Example No.	Composition of Surfactant (Weight Ratio)	<u>Detergency (%)</u>	
			<u>At Start</u>	<u>After Oil Accumulation</u>
10	1	A1/B5 = 75/25	100	100
	2	A1/B5 = 50/50	100	100
	3	A1/B5 = 25/75	95	90
15	4	A2/B5 = 50/50	100	100
	5	A3/B5 = 50/50	90	85
20	6	A4/B5 = 50/50	90	80
	7	A5/B5 = 50/50	100	90
	8	A6/B5 = 50/50	90	90
25	9	A7/B5 = 50/50	100	95
	10	A8/B5 = 50/50	95	90
30	11	A9/B5 = 50/50	95	90
	12	A1/B1 = 50/50	90	90
	13	A1/B2 = 50/50	100	100
35	14	A1/B3 = 50/50	95	90
	15	A1/B4 = 50/50	95	90
40	16	A1/B5 = 50/50	90	80
	17	A1/B6 = 50/50	95	90

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Table 1 (Continued)

Comparative Example No.	Composition of Surfactant (Weight Ratio)	<u>Detergency (%)</u>	
		<u>At Start</u>	<u>After Oil Accumulation</u>
1	Only A1	50	0
2	Only A2	70	20
3	Only A3	40	0
4	Only A4	30	0
5	Only A5	75	20
6	Only A6	30	0
7	Only A7	60	0
8	Only A8	40	0
9	Only A9	0	0
10	Only B1	0	0
11	Only B2	0	0
12	Only B3	0	0
13	Only B4	0	0
14	Only B5	0	0
15	Only C1	10	0
16	A1/C1 = 50/50	50	0

Table 2

Composition	Parts by Weight
Surfactant Composition	10
Alkali Builder	
Sodium Metasilicate • 5H ₂ O	45
Anhydrous Sodium Carbonate	18
Sodium Phosphate	18
Sodium Nitrite	9

As is clear from Table 1, the degreasing composition of the present invention are much better than

those of Comparative Examples 1 - 16 both at start and after oil accumulation.

Examples 18 - 21, Comparative Examples 17 - 19

Evaluation of Antifoaming Properties

Various compounds (a) and compounds (b) are mixed in proportions shown in Table 3 to prepare surfactant compositions, and each surfactant composition is mixed with an alkali builder in a proportion shown in Table 2 to prepare a degreasing composition. Next, 2 parts by weight of each degreasing composition is mixed with 98 parts by weight of water to prepare a degreasing detergent solution.

The evaluation of antifoaming properties is conducted on the resulting degreasing detergent solution by a Ross-Miles Test Method. Specifically, 200 ml of the degreasing composition solution is dropped from a height of 90 cm onto a 50 ml of degreasing composition solution contained in a glass cylinder of 50 mm in inner diameter at 25 °C for 30 seconds to measure the height (mm) of a foam generated immediately after dropping and the height (mm) 5 minutes after dropping. The height of a foam is expressed as a level of foaming.

The evaluation results of antifoaming properties are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

		Foaming Level (mm)	
No.	Composition of Surfactant (Weight Ratio)	Immediately After Foaming	5 Minutes After Foaming
Example			
18	A1/B1 = 50/50	50	35
19	A1/B2 = 50/50	60	43
20	A2/B1 = 50/50	65	50
21	A5/B1 = 50/50	68	44
Comparative Example			
17	Only A-1	120	75
18	Only A-2	140	117
19	Only A-5	133	104

As is clear from Table 3, the degreasing composition solution of the present invention is more excellent in antifoaming properties than those containing conventional surfactants in Comparative Examples 17-19.

Examples 22, 23, Comparative Examples 20 and 21

A5 and B1 are selected as the compound (a) and the compound (b), and mixed in a weight ratio of 50/50 to prepare a surfactant composition, and the surfactant composition is mixed with an alkali builder in the proportion shown in Table 4 to prepare a degreasing composition. Next, each degreasing composition is mixed with water in a proportion shown in Table 4 to prepare a degreasing composition solution. The resulting degreasing composition solution is evaluated with respect to detergency and antifoaming properties in the same method as above. The evaluation results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

	Example No.		Comparative Example No.	
	22	23	20	21
Composition of Degreasing Detergent Solution (Parts by Weight)				
Surfactant (X)	2	2	0.04	1
Alkali Builder (Y)	2	200	100	0.1
Water (Z)	980	1798	900	980
X/Y	1/1	1/100	1/2500	1/0.1
$[X/(X+Y+Z)] \times 100$ (weight %)	0.2	0.1	0.004	0.1
$[Y/(X+Y+Z)] \times 100$ (weight %)	0.2	10	10	0.01
Detergency (%)				
At Start	100	100	10	100*
After Oil Accumulation	95	100	0	70*
Foaming Level (mm)				
Immediately After Foaming	70	67	5	-
5 Minutes After Foaming	40	42	2	-

Note *: Steel test piece was rusted.

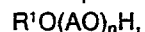
As is clear from Table 4, the degreasing composition solutions in Examples 22 and 23 are much better in detergency than that of Comparative Example 20 in which the proportion of the surfactant composition to the alkali builder is less in detergency than 1/2000. In addition, in Comparative Example 22, in which the content of the alkali builder in the degreasing composition solution is less than 0.05 weight %, the steel test piece is rusted in the evaluation process of detergency. Therefore, a proper amount of the alkali builder is important to adjust pH, thereby achieving the object of the present invention.

As described above in detail, since the surfactant composition of the present invention contains the compound (a) and the compound (b) in a weight ratio [compound (a)/compound (b)] of 10/90 - 95/5, the degreasing composition and degreasing bath containing such surfactant composition and an alkali builder are excellent in detergency and antifoaming properties at room temperature.

The degreasing detergent of the present invention can advantageously maintain detergency and antifoaming properties even after oil accumulation in the bath on an equal level to that at start.

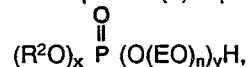
Claims

1. A surfactant composition comprising:
a compound (a) represented by the general formula;



wherein R^1 is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms; A is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group, provided that an ethylene group in A is 5 mol or more per 1 mol of R^1 , and that the ethylene group is 50 mol % or more per 100 mol % of said A; and n is an integer of 5 - 50; and

a compound (b) represented by the general formula:

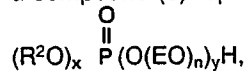


wherein R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and $x + y = 3$,
in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5.

2. A degreasing composition comprising:
a compound (a) represented by the general formula:
 $R^1O(AO)_nH,$

wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms; A is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group, provided that an ethylene group in A is 5 mol or more per 1 mol of R¹, and that the ethylene group is 50 mol % or more per 100 mol % of said A; and n is an integer of 5 - 50; and

5 a compound (b) represented by the general formula:



wherein R² is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and x + y = 3,

70 in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5, and further comprising an alkali builder in a weight ratio [(compound (a) + compound (b))/alkali builder] of 1:0.1 - 1:2,000.

3. A degreasing bath comprising:

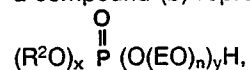
(1) 0.005 - 0.5 weight % of a surfactant composition comprising:

a compound (a) represented by the general formula:

15 R¹O(AO)_nH,

wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms; A is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ethylene group, a propylene group, a butylene group and a styrene group, provided that is an ethylene group in A is 5 mol or more per 1 mol of R¹, and that the ethylene group is 50 mol % or more per 100 mol % of said A; and n is an integer of 5 - 50; and

20 a compound (b) represented by the general formula:



wherein R² is a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 6 or more carbon atoms, E is an ethylene group, n is an integer of 1 - 20, x and y are 1 or 2, and x + y = 3,

25 in a weight ratio of compound (a)/compound (b) = 10/90 - 95/5; and

(2) 0.05 - 10 weight % of an alkali builder.

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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 10 6663

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-4 539 134 (L.D. MARTIN et al.) * Claim 1 * ---	1-3	C 23 G 1/14 C 11 D 1/825
A	US-A-4 247 424 (M. KUZEL et al.) * Claims 1,6 * ---	1-3	
A	US-A-4 552 673 (M.A. GROLITZER) * Claim 1 * -----	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			C 23 G C 11 D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17-07-1990	Examiner DE ANNA P.L.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	