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(54) **A process for preparing (branched-alkyl) arylsulphonates and a (branched-alkyl) arylsulphonate composition**

(57) A process for preparing branched olefins, which process comprises dehydrogenating an isoparaffinic composition comprising 0.5% or less quaternary aliphatic carbon atoms over a suitable catalyst which isoparaffinic composition has been obtained by hydroisomerisation of a paraffinic composition and which isoparaffinic composition comprises paraffins having a carbon number in the range of from 7 to 18, of which paraffins at least a portion of the molecules is branched, the average number of branches per paraffin molecule being 0.5 to 2.5 and the

branching comprising methyl and optionally ethyl branches, said branched olefins comprising 0.5% or less quaternary aliphatic hydrocarbons. A process for preparing branched alkyl aromatic hydrocarbons, which process comprises contacting branched olefins with an aromatic hydrocarbon under alkylating conditions. A process for preparing (branched-alkyl)arylsulphonates, comprising sulphonating branched alkyl aromatic hydrocarbons.

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