

# United States Patent [19]

Langdon

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[54] ACETAL GROUP-CONTAINING NON-IONIC SURFACTANTS

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[52] U.S. Cl. .... 260/404; 260/404.5

[58] Field of Search ..... 260/404.5 EO, 404

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## [57] ABSTRACT

Acetal-coupled non-ionic surfactants are easily degraded into relatively environmentally innocuous fragments having little or no surface activity. The fragments are sufficiently low in molecular weight to be oxidized when exposed to water and atmospheric oxygen. Surface activity can also be destroyed by lowering the alkalinity of the medium in which the non-ionic surfactant is utilized to below pH 7.

7 Claims, No Drawings