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3,531,310

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cally inert to the metal oxide, said liquid-free gas having a temperature of from about 20° C. to about 70° C.

4. A process according to claim 3 wherein the titanium dioxide fluid energy milled has a coating of at least one hydrous metal oxide.

5. A process according to claim 3 wherein the titanium dioxide fluid energy milled has a coating of at least one hydrous metal oxide selected from the group consisting of aluminum, titanium and silicon hydrates.

6. A process according to claim 3 wherein the titanium dioxide is fluid energy milled with steam followed by a fluid energy milling with at least one member selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, air and carbon dioxide.

7. In a process of producing pigmentary titanium dioxide wherein titanium tetrahalide is oxidized in the vapor phase with an oxygen-containing gas at elevated temperatures and the titanium dioxide pigment thus produced is coated with at least one hydrous metal oxide, dried and the dried pigment fluid energy milled, the improvement which comprises fluid energy milling the dried pigment at least once with a gaseous fluid comprising steam and sequentially thereafter fluid energy milling the steam milled pigment at least once with a substantially liquid-free, non-condensable gas chemically inert to the pigment, said liquid-free gas having a temperature of from 20° C. to about 70° C.

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8. A process according to claim 1 wherein the liquid-free gas is selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide.

9. A process according to claim 1 wherein the moisture content of the pigment after fluid energy milling is not more than about 0.5 weight percent.

10. A process according to claim 7 wherein the pigment is first milled with steam and then milled with at least one member selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide.

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