

# Provisional Recommendations

## IUPAC Seeks Your Comments

Provisional recommendations are drafts of IUPAC recommendations on terminology, nomenclature, and symbols made widely available to allow interested parties to comment before the recommendations are finally revised and published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.

There are currently two documents available for review:

### **Quantities, Terminology, and Symbols in Photothermal and Related Spectroscopies**

Comments by 31 July 2002

*Chem. Int.* 2002, Vol 24, No 2, p. 19

### **Thermochemistry of Chemical Reactions: Terminology, Symbols, and Experimental Methods for the Determination of Bond Energies**

Comments by 30 September 2002

*Chem. Int.* 2002, Vol 24, No 3, p. 16

If you would like to comment, please visit the IUPAC Web site, where the full texts are available for downloadings as draft pdf files.



[www.iupac.org/reports/provisional](http://www.iupac.org/reports/provisional)

## Highlights from Pure and Applied Chemistry

### *Presenting recently published IUPAC technical reports and recommendations*

#### **Critical Evaluation of Proven Chemical Weapon Destruction Technologies (IUPAC Technical Report)**

by Graham S. Pearson and Richard S. Magee  
*Pure and Applied Chemistry*, Vol. 74, No. 2, pp. 187-316 (2002)

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force on 29 April 1997, prohibits the development, production, transfer, acquisition, stockpiling, and retention of chemical weapons and their use and requires all State Parties to undertake “to destroy chemical weapons it owns or possesses, or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.” The CWC opened for signature in January 1993 and, as of May 2002, had 145 State Parties—states which have ratified or acceded to the Convention.

#### **The Requirement for Destruction**

Article IV of the Convention requires that:

“Each State Party shall destroy all chemical weapons. . . Such destruction shall begin not later than two years after this Convention enters into force for it and shall finish **not later than 10 years after entry into force of this Convention.**”  
[Emphasis added]

Consequently, the deadline for destruction of chemical weapons is 29 April 2007. However, the CWC’s Verification Annex includes a provision allowing a State Party to apply to the Executive Council for an extension of the deadline if it believes that it will be unable to ensure destruction of all chemical weapons within the 10-year timeframe. The Convention states that “any extension shall be the minimum necessary but in no case shall the deadline for a State Party to complete its destruction of all chemical weapons be extended beyond 15 years after entry into force of this Convention.”

### ***Five years left to destroy chemical weapons***

The destruction requirements are further elaborated in Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex which *inter alia* require that the “chemicals are converted in an **essentially irreversible** way to a form unsuitable for production of chemical weapons, and which in an **irreversible** manner renders munitions and other devices unusable as such.” [Emphasis added]

This report, published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, Vol. 74, No. 2, February 2002, pp. 187-316 is intended to provide policymakers and decisionmakers concerned with the destruction of chemical weapons with information about technologies proven to destroy chemical