# ANALYSIS OF BLEACH 

This activity assesses:
Unit: 6345 Analyse spontaneous oxidation - reduction reactions (Level 3).
Element: 1 Determine the concentration of an oxidant or reductant by titration.

CONDITIONS: Practical activity.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Commercial bleaches contain hypochlorite ions, $\mathrm{OCl}^{\prime}$, which react with iodide ions, I, according to the equation below:

$$
\mathrm{OCl}^{-}+2 \mathrm{I}^{-}+2 \mathrm{H}^{+} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Cl}^{-}+\mathrm{I}_{2}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}
$$

In the experiment excess potassium iodide is added to diluted bleach solution and the iodine formed is then titrated with standardised sodium thiosulfate solution. It reacts according to the equation below.

$$
\mathrm{I}_{2}+2 \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}^{2-} \longrightarrow 2 \mathrm{I}^{-}+\mathrm{S}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{6}^{2-}
$$

The concentration of hypochlorite ion in the bleach can be determined from the results of the titrations.

You will need the following:

| 25 mL pipette | diluted bleach |
| :--- | :--- |
| solid potassium iodide | conical flasks |
| starch indicator | dilute sulfuric acid $\left(2 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}\right)$ |
| wash bottle | pipette |
| pipette filler | standardised sodium thiosulfate (approx. |
|  | $\left.0.1 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}\right)$ |

## Method

A 1. Pipette 25 mL of the diluted bleach into a conical flask.
2. Add about 0.5 g (an excess) of potassium iodide. Swirl well to dissolve.
3. Add 5 mL of dilute sulfuric acid and mix.
4. Titrate the liberated iodine with the standardised sodium thiosulfate solution until a pale yellow colour is obtained.
5. Add starch solution and continue until the blue-black colour just disappears. Record your titre volume.
6. Repeat this procedure until you have 3 concordant results.

## Results

Volume of bleach $=$ $\qquad$ mL

Concentration of sodium thiosulfate $=$ $\qquad$ $\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{L}^{-1}$

Volume of sodium thiosulfate solution used (burette):

|  | Titration 1 | Titration 2 | Titration 3 | Titration 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Final burette reading, mL |  |  |  |  |
| Initial burette reading, mL |  |  |  |  |
| Volume used, mL |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## Calculations

B 1. Calculate the average volume of sodium thiosulfate solution used in the titration.
2. Calculate the concentration (in $\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{L}^{-1}$ ) of OCl - in the diluted bleach sample.
(Show all working including how you have used the given equations to determine the relationship between the amount of $\mathrm{S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}{ }^{2-}$ (mol) and amount of $\mathrm{OCl}^{-}$(mol). Give your answer to three significant figures).

3 The diluted bleach has been prepared by taking 25 mL of commercial bleach and making up to 250 mL . Calculate the concentration of hypochlorite ions, $\mathrm{OCl}-$, in the original undiluted bleach.

## Assessment Schedule: Analysis of bleach Unit Standard 6345

| Task Number | Element and Performance Criteria | Evidence <br> (The answers or performance expected from the students) | Judgement <br> (A statement that defines the standard to be achieved) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | 1.1 | If $0.100 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}{ }^{2-}$ used and bleach is not old, volume range of $20.7 \mathrm{~mL}<\mathrm{V}<21.7 \mathrm{~mL}$ is expected. | Volume in range, ie accurate to plus or minus 0.5 mL of known volume. |
| B | 1.2 | 1. eg $\begin{aligned} \begin{aligned} \mathrm{av} . \mathrm{vol} & = \\ \mathrm{S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}^{2-} & \left(\frac{21.10+21.15+}{2-}\right) \\ & \frac{21.20}{3} \\ & =21.15 \mathrm{~mL} \end{aligned} \\ \end{aligned}$ <br> 2. $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{nl}_{2}=\mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{OCl}^{-}} \\ & \mathrm{nl}_{2}=1 / 2 \mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}}{ }^{2-} \\ & \text { So } \mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{CCl}}{ }^{-1}=1 / 2 \mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}{ }^{2-}} \\ & \mathrm{c} \times 0.025=1 / 2 \times 0.100 \times 0.02115 \\ & \mathrm{c}=0.0423 \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \text { (diluted) } \end{aligned}$ <br> 3. Undiluted bleach conc. $=0.423 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}$ This gives 31.5 g NaOCl per litre (manufacturers claimed minimum). Expected concentration range $0.414 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}<$ conc. $<0.434 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{~L}^{-1}$. | Calculation of average uses only concordant results. <br> Correct ratio has been used in calculation and calculated answer (to 3 st ) is correct for student titration volume used. |

