Appendix 8: PRELAB – Equilibrium and Le Chatelier's Principle

1. Define equilibrium.
2. State Le Chatelier's Principle.
3. For the following reaction, indicate how the amount of $SO_{2(g)}$ present a equilibrium would be affected by: $2SO_{3(g)} \rightleftharpoons 2SO_{2(g)} O_{2(g)} \Delta H = 197.78 \text{ kJ}$
a) Adding SO ₃ .
b) Raising the temperature.
c) Decreasing the volume.
d) Removing some 0 ₂ .
e) Adding some SO ₂ .
f) Adding a catalyst.
g) Removing some SO ₃ .

Appendix 9: Oualitative Equilibrium Lab

A standard laboratory example for demonstrating the effect of changing concentrations on the equilibrium positions shown below:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Fe_{(aq)}^{3^{+}} + SCN_{(aq)}^{\text{-}} & \rightleftharpoons & FeSCN_{(aq)}^{2^{+}} \\ \text{Pale yellow} & \text{red} \end{array}$$

The position of equilibrium can be determined from the colour of the solution. When the iron (III) nitrate and potassium thiocyanate solutions are mixed, the colour of the mixture is orange at equilibrium. If the equilibrium lies to the right, the solution is a dark red colour. If the equilibrium lies to the left, the solution is a pale yellow colour.

Materials

Well plate 0.020 mol/L iron (III) nitrate 0.002 mol/L potassium thiocyanate 1.0 mol/L sodium hydroxide Toothpicks

Procedures

- 1. In each of four wells, add 5 drops of iron (III) nitrate and 5 drops of potassium thiocyanate. Mix each solution with a toothpick.
- 2. Do not alter the first well. It will act as your control.
- 3. To the second well, add I0 drops of sodium hydroxide. Record your observations.
- 4. To the third well, add 10 drops of iron (III) nitrate and record your observations.
- 5. Add 10 drops of potassium thiocyanate to the fourth, and final, well. Record your observations.

Questions

Use le Chatelier's Principle to explain the results from steps 3 to 5 of the procedures.