

## **metastable state**

*in spectrochemistry*

Any excited state which in principle, by virtue of the selection rules, cannot radiatively combine with any lower state. It usually has a considerably longer lifetime than an ordinary excited state.

**Source:**

PAC, 1985, 57, 1453 (*Nomenclature, symbols, units and their usage in spectrochemical analysis - V: Radiation sources (Recommendations 1985)*) on page 1463