

## PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON ELECTROCHEMICAL BEHAVIOUR OF SULPHITE ON STAINLESS STEEL IN NEUTRAL MEDIA

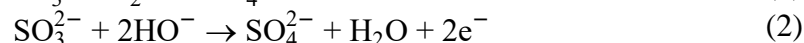
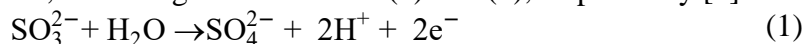
**Mihaela-Alexandra LĂBOŞEL<sup>1</sup>, Natalia RUDENKO<sup>2</sup>, Mircea Laurențiu DAN<sup>1</sup>, Nicolae VASZILCSIN<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University Politehnica Timisoara, Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and Environmental Engineering, Laboratory of Electrochemistry, Corrosion and Electrochemical Engineering, 6 Pârvan, 300223 Timisoara, Romania

<sup>2</sup>University Politehnica Timisoara, Innovation and Technology Transfer Center  
e-mail: mircea.dan@upt.ro

### Abstract

SO<sub>2</sub> emissions are widely converted to sulphite through the flue gas desulphurization process, in which SO<sub>2</sub> is scrubbed and then chemically absorbed as sulphite (SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) in alkaline solutions [1]. Furthermore, the oxidation of SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> ions can produce additional benefits, such as generation of an energy carrier like hydrogen [2]. Sulphite electrooxidation occurs in both acidic and alkaline media, according to the reaction (1) and (2), respectively [3]:



Several studies regarding the sulphite electrooxidation were performed using noble metals such as platinum [4] and gold [5] due to their good catalytic activity [6], but the high price of these materials is a major drawback for their widespread use, therefore the present paper targets low-cost electrodes such as AISI 420 and Incoloy 800.

In this paper, the anodic oxidation of the sulphite ions on AISI 420 and Incoloy 800 electrodes in neutral solution (1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) was studied to determine the relationship between the kinetic parameters and the sulphite concentration added in the electrolyte (10<sup>-3</sup>, 10<sup>-2</sup>, 10<sup>-1</sup>, 0.5 and 1 mol L<sup>-1</sup>). Due to their electrochemical stability in aqueous solutions, in acidic and neutral electrolytes, stainless steel electrodes can be a practical alternative as anode material. Also, their tendency to passivation can be an advantage both due to the high corrosion resistance and the catalytic effect on the anodic oxidation of sulphite [7].

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### References

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