

Answer on Question #84943 – Chemistry – General Chemistry

What three defining issues are associated with polyatomic species? These issues are associated with bonding, charge, and stability of polyatomics.

Solution:

Just as ions are formed when neutral atoms gain or lose electrons, a polyatomic ion is formed when a neutral molecule gains or loses electrons. Therefore, a polyatomic ion is a group of covalently bonded atoms that carries a net charge due to the fact that the total number of electrons in the molecule is not equal to the total number of protons in the molecule. In the Lewis dot structure of a polyatomic ion, the sum of the formal charges on all the atoms must equal the net charge on the ion.

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