

### Saytzeff rule

Dehydrohalogenation of secondary- and tertiary-alkyl halides proceeds by the preferential removal of the  $\beta$ -hydrogen from the carbon that has the smallest number of hydrogens. Originally formulated by A. Saytzeff (Zaitsev) to generalize the orientation in  $\beta$ -*elimination reactions* of alkyl halides, this rule has been extended and modified, as follows: When two or more olefins can be produced in an elimination reaction, the thermodynamically most *stable* alkene will predominate. Exceptions to the Saytzeff rule are exemplified by the *Hofmann rule*.

See also *Markownikoff rule*.

1994, 66, 1162