

stable film, metastable film

A film often thins gradually to a thickness at which it either ruptures or converts abruptly to an equilibrium. Rupture under these conditions characterizes unstable films, whereas transition to an equilibrium film characterizes (meta)stable films.

Source:

PAC, 1972, 31, 577 (*Manual of Symbols and Terminology for Physicochemical Quantities and Units, Appendix II: Definitions, Terminology and Symbols in Colloid and Surface Chemistry*) on page 614