

third body

A species, other than the reactant itself, which brings about the energization of a molecule that can undergo a unimolecular process, or brings about a combination reaction between atoms or radicals. In the latter case a third body is also called a chaperon.

Source:

PAC, 1996, 68, 149 (*A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 189