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Removal of heavy metal ions from zinc hydrometallurgical wastewater using CaS-containing alkaline slag

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Abstrat: The CaS-containing alkaline slag (CCAS), discharged after recovering valuable metals from high-surfur residues in zinc hydrometallurgical plants, was used to remove heavy metal ions from acid wastewater produced in zinc hydrometallurgical process. The CCAS was capable of effectivly removing aqueous Pb²⁺ and Cd²⁺ ions with the neutralization of acid wastewaters. As the CCAS usage was 30 g/L for Pb²⁺ and 45 g/L for Cd²⁺ containing synthetic solutions, the removal rate of Pb²⁺ and Cd²⁺ reached 99.13% and 99.87% with the equilibrium pH of 10.81 and 10.85, respectively. The Pb²⁺ and Cd²⁺ ions were removed with the CCAS by generating metal sulfides, hydroxides and aluminosilicate. The treatment of real acid wastewater from zinc hydrometallurgical process was also investigated with the CCAS. As the CCAS usage was 160 g/L, the concentrations of Cd²⁺, Pb²⁺, As³⁺ and Zn²⁺ ions were reduced to 0.102 mg/L, 0.09 mg/L, 0.003 mg/L and 0.0193 mg/L respectively, and the equilibrium pH of treated wastewater was increased from around 2.0 to 11.30. For the treatment of real wastewater, heavy metals were proved to be removed by forming Cd₂SO₄(OH)₂, Cd₃Al₂Si₃O₁₂, PbSO₄ and CuS on CCAS surface. The results revealed that it was feasible for the CCAS to treat real acid wastewater discharged from zinc hydrometallurgical process. However, the used CCAS must be stored in specialzed landfill because the leaching concentration of Cd2+ reached 0.107 mg/L, which was higher than the Cd^{2+} emission standard of 0.05 mg/L.

Keywords: CaS-containing alkaline slag, heavy metal ion, removal, zinc hydrometallurgical process, acid wastewater, neutralization

1.Introduction

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