transient phase (induction period)

This expression relates to the period of time that elapdes prior to the establishment of a steady state. Initially the concentration of a reactive intermediate is zero, and it rises to the steady-state concentration during the transient phase.

Source:

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