A peroxycarboxylic acid or peracid is a compound that has the following general structural formula:

\[
\begin{align*}
\overset{\text{O}}{\text{R}} & \text{C} & \overset{\text{O}}{\text{O}} & \overset{\text{H}}{\text{H}} \\
\end{align*}
\]

R could be an alkyl group or an aryl group.

eg:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{peracetic acid} & \quad \text{m-chloroperbenzoic acid} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Peroxy acids are oxidizing agents, used mainly to oxidize alkenes and ketones.

Contributors

- [Gamini Gunawardena](http://OChemPal) from the OChemPal site ([Utah Valley University](http://Utah Valley University))