

A. Description of dry etching mechanism by fluorine gas

B. Reasons why fluorine gas is **essential** in the dry etching mechanism with fluorine gas

C. Reason why substitution is **not possible** for gases other than fluorine gas (other halogens) (For example, differences in boiling point, selectivity, and anisotropy in SiF_4 and SiBr_4)

D. Explanation of the above from the viewpoint of both dry etching gas and cleaning gas

E. Current status of disposal
(exclusion rate data)

The following is an excerpt from "SIA PFAS Consortium.pdf".

"Some etching processes use PFAS as primary gas(es), whilst others use PFAS as an additive. Each of these processes has been achieved, therefore many different combinations of PFAS are used."

"Plasma etching is directional, making it possible to target the specific, microscopic features needed to create a device. Anisotropic/isotropic etching and protective layer formation can be obtained by using plasma of PFAS. These are indispensable steps in the production of semiconductor devices."

"In the semiconductor industry today, very high aspect ratios are required to enable increasingly demanding devices to be built out smaller and smaller gaps. Especially where etching the insulator of the semiconductor device structure is required, when controlling the dissociation ratio of PFAS molecular radicals by plasma. By using directional etching, or otherwise altered during the etching process, using a deposited layer consisting of C and F, it is possible to achieve the required aspect ratios."

With the increase in calculation speed and storage capacity, semiconductor devices are required to be built deeper.

The amount of the target material to be etched is mostly a silicon-based material, and radical species are used. As a hole deeper, the compound produced by the reaction between silicon and the radical must be eliminated. Most of the holes are dug by etching using F and Cl radicals whose products are easily vaporized.

When digging a hole deeply, the precision of the shape of the hole is required, and it is necessary to prevent the material decomposed by the plasma from being polymerized on the surface of the substrate, and the protective film is formed by fluorine-based materials. Protective membranes also protect against physical damage from ions. Fluorine-based materials are used for protection, so replacing this mechanism is quite a challenge.

Especially in the etching of silicon oxide (SiO₂), which is an insulating film, CF-based gases are very important. The reaction model is SiO₂ + CF₄ → SiF₄ + 2CO. The SiF₄ is a gas with high vapor pressure and is easily removed from the SiO₂ film and forming reaction products with high vapor pressure (reaction model: SiO₂ + CF₄ → SiF₄ + 2CO).

Explained in B. In addition, since the Si substrate is processed, the existence of the Si compound during the etching process is a problem for the semiconductor.

However, when SiO₂-based reaction products are attached to parts in the chamber, PFAS gas may be used for cleaning. Therefore, it is considered possible to reduce the amount used compared with NF₃ gas. After cleaning with NF₃ gas, and since PFAS gas is used at this time, PFAS gas is essential for cleaning. SiF₄ may also be used, but it is not clear whether it is effective for cleaning.

The IPCC has established formulas and coefficients for calculating fluorine gas emissions, which are corrected for the decontamination equipment (*), it has been confirmed that the decontamination effect is greater than the gas released into the atmosphere is small, and the introduction of the decontamination equipment is

*Example: CF₄ exclusion rate: default 89% based on IPCC2019Tier2c ⇒ monitoring results 99% or higher