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Inorganic Acid Emission Factors of Semiconductor Manufacturing Processes

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ABSTRACT

A huge amount of inorganic acids can be produced and emitted with waste gases from integrated circuit manufacturing processes such as cleaning and etching. Emission of inorganic acids from selected semiconductor factories was measured in this study. The sampling of the inorganic acids was based on the porous metal denuders, and samples were then analyzed by ion chromatography. The amount of chemical usage was adopted from the data that were reported to the Environmental Protection Bureau in Hsin-chu County according to the Taiwan Environmental Protection Agency regulation. The emission factor is defined as the emission rate (kg/month) divided by the amount of chemical usage (L/month). Emission factors of three inorganic acids (i.e., hydrofluoric acid [HF], hydrochloric acid [HCl], and sulfuric acid [H₂SO₄]) were estimated by the same method. The emission factors of HF and HCl were determined to be 0.0075 kg/L (coefficient of variation [CV] = 60.7%, n = 80) and 0.0096 kg/L (CV = 68.2%, n = 91), respectively. Linear regression equations are proposed to fit the data with correlation coefficient square $(R^2) = 0.82$ and 0.9, respectively. The emission factor of H₂SO₄, which is in the droplet form, was determined to be 0.0016 kg/L (CV = 99.2%, n = 107), and its R² was 0.84. The emission profiles of gaseous inorganic acids show that HF is the dominant chemical in most of the fabricators.

IMPLICATIONS

Emission factors of inorganic acids for semiconductor manufacturing are required in Taiwan to determine the air pollution fee and initiate its collection from factories. The emission profile also is needed to better understand the industrial air pollution problems. Therefore, Hsin-chu County has performed an investigation project to study the characteristics of industrial inorganic acid emissions.

INTRODUCTION

According to the "Air Pollution Regulation and Emission Standard for the Semiconductor Manufacturing Industry (APRESS)" rectified and issued by the Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration (TEPA) in April 1999,1 the semiconductor manufacturing industries are defined as those who engage in integrated circuit (IC) wafer production, wafer package, epitaxial, photo-mask production, and wire frame production. Semiconductor manufacturing industries contribute significantly to economic growth and have become the most important industry in Taiwan. However, the emission of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) produced by the industries increasingly is deteriorating the ambient air quality. An emission factor is a representative value that attempts to relate the quality of a pollutant released to the atmosphere with an activity associated with the release of that pollutant.² The "Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factor, AP-42" details the most complete list of emission factors from various industries, including the emission factors of total organic compounds (TOCs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), methane (CH₄), ethane (C₂H₆), and other kinds of organic and inorganic compounds. A specialty conference (i.e., "Emission Inventory: Regional Strategies for the Future") was held in 1999 sponsored by the Air & Waste Management Association (AWMA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to discuss the application of the emission inventory.³ To date, there is still no inorganic acid emission factor of IC-related process reported. In Taiwan, the "Handbook for Estimation of Taiwan Air Pollutant Emission" issued by TEPA in 2000 can be consulted to calculate the amount of emissions of various pollutants produced by different industries, but the emission factor for the IC manufacturing industry has not been reported yet.4

The objective of this study is to estimate the emission factor of inorganic acids for semiconductor manufacturing



Figure 1. IC process flow diagram.

processes. This can be a reference for various governmental organizations in regulating emission control laws and policies on pollution reduction and, thus, can achieve the goal of air quality management and improvement.

Table 1. Commonly used chemicals in semiconductor processes

Process	Method	Commonly Used Chemicals
Cleaning		H ₂ SO ₄ , HCl, ammonium hydroxide (NH ₄ OH), hydrogen peroxide (H ₂ O ₂), HNO ₃ , HF, water (H ₂ O), IPA, methanol, acetone, 1,1,1- trichloroethane, hexafluoroethane (C ₂ F ₆), nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₂)
Photolithography	Positive	Ortho-diazoketone, sodium hydroxide (NaOH), potassium hydroxide (KOH), polymethacrylate, polyfluoroalkyl-methacrylate, ethylene glycol, IPA, ethanolamine
	Negative	Isoprene, ethyl acrylate, xylene, n- butyl acetate, IPA
Etching	Wet	H ₂ SO ₄ , H ₂ O ₂ , phosphoric acid (H ₂ PO ₄), HNO ₃ , HF, HCl
	Dry	Chlorine (Cl ₂), hydrobromic acid (HBr), carbon tetrafluoride (CF ₄), sulfur hexafluoride (SF ₆), trifluoromethane (CHF ₃), fluorine (F ₂), carbon tetrachloride (CCl ₄), hydrogen (H ₂), boron chloride (BCl ₂), frepos
Oxidation	_	Trichloroethane, trichloroethylene
Deposition	—	$\begin{array}{l} \text{SiH}_4, \text{SiCI}_4, \text{NH}_3, \text{N}_2\text{O}, \text{WF}_6, \text{AsH}_3, \\ \text{PH}_3, \text{B}_2\text{H}_6 \end{array}$
lon implantation and diffusion	_	AsH ₃ , PH ₃ , PF ₅ , BF ₃ , B ₂ H ₆

METHODS

Semiconductor Fabrication

In IC fabrication, inorganic acid emission is produced mainly during the procedure of wafer surface cleaning and etching. A typical process flow of wafer fabrication is shown in Figure 1, and a list of chemicals commonly used in semiconductor process is shown in Table 1. The major air pollutants emitted from IC industries include the VOCs, such as isopropyl alcohol (IPA), acetone, propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate (PGMEA), and ethyl acetate, and the inorganic acids, such as hydrofluoric acid (HF), sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄), and hydrochloric acid (HCl). The emitted waste gas also includes some other toxic pollutants, such as arsenical compounds. Semiconductor fabricators (fabs) use the wet-scrubber technique (scrubbing liquid: water; pH: 8.5-9.5; circulating water flow rate: 40-55 t/hr; blow-down period: 8-24 hr) to control the inorganic gas emissions.

 Table 2. "Air Pollution Regulation and Emission Standard for IC Manufacturing

 Industry" criterion application.¹

Original Material	Usage Yearly (equal to or more than) kg/yr
VOCs	1700
Trichloroethylene	60
HNO3	1700
H_2SO_4	300
HCI	1700
H ₃ PO ₄	1700
HF	1200

Table 3. Production and chemical usage data of all 36 factories

Factory	Product (unit)	Monthly Average of Product	Monthly Usage of H ₂ SO ₄ (L/month)	Monthly Usage of HCI (L/month)	Monthly Usage of HF (L/month)
Wafer proces	S				
Hy ^a	Si wafer-6" (piece)	2315	133.3	58	0
Hb ^a	Si wafer-5" (piece)	15,307	24,404.1	667.5	0
T1 ^a	Si wafer-6" (piece)	23,611	2999.5	1105.3	0
Sd	GaAS wafer (piece)	300	16,818.8	1238.1	547.5
Bd	GaAS wafer (piece)	663	0	240.1	0
lt	Si wafer-8" (piece)	1796	951.8	20.3	741.8
UI	Si wafer-8" (piece)	2168	0	12.1	495.9
Fb	Si wafer-8" (piece)	2654	—	—	—
Mg	Si wafer-8" (piece)	4367	0	3.8	4.2
Hg	Si wafer-8" (piece)	8888	20.3	0.3	0
Fc	Si wafer-8" (piece)	11,700	897.2	725.8	285.8
T7	Si wafer-8" (piece)	10,367	—	—	—
Si	Si wafer-8" (piece)	14,611	—	—	—
Sj	Si wafer-8" (piece)	21,890	—	—	—
T5	Si wafer-8" (piece)	23,070	40,632.8	3485.8	9303.3
Um	Si wafer-6" (piece)	41,277	45,497.8	2566.7	4487.8
T2	Si wafer-6" (piece)	43,395	21,334.2	2991.5	12986.2
Km	Si wafer-8" (piece)	46,238		667.5	1121.9
Т3	Si wafer-8" (piece)	53,636	30	4.4	19884.3
Cd	Si wafer-8" (piece)	144,016	4635	6963.3	7080
Wire frame p	rocess				
Fs	Wire frame (strip)	161,773,400	3654.2	21849.4	0
Lv	Wire frame (strip)	69,688,582	1127.1	0	0
Kg	Wire frame (strip)	3,579,230	1949.2	132.5	0
Fs3	Wire frame (strip)	1,185,664	3953.8	1860.1	0
SI	Wire frame (strip)	1,165,589	5233.3	8626.4	0
Tj	Wire frame (strip)	—	—	—	—
Integrated cir	cuit and crystal growth process				
Yh	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	10,666,666	20	1.3	6.2
Sy	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	8,614,285	5.3	6.3	0
Ht	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	6,924,049	118.8	6732	0
Gy	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	27,190	49.7	214	0
HI	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	8867	0	0	0
KI	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	1330	4781.5	2243.9	0
Lw	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	1293	63.3	71.1	0
Js	Integrated circuit and crystal growth (pellet)	88	6.9	17.8	0
Other proces	S				
Kj	Photo-mask (piece)	6390	1422.7	0	0
Sy	Wafer polish	—	1999.7	15,691	0

Note: — = Data not available; ^aThese three factories had closed or moved.

Article 3 of the APRESS states that the regulation is applied to those semiconductor fabs having yearly consumption of chemicals equal to or more than the amount shown in Table 2. For the inorganic acids (i.e., HF, nitric acid [HNO₃], and HCl), the removal efficiency of operating control devices should be more than 95%, or the total emission amount of each chemical in a fab should be less than 0.6 kg/hr, whereas H_2SO_4 removal efficiency of operating control devices should be more than 95%, or the total H_2SO_4 emission amount in a fab should be less than 0.1 kg/hr. It also is mentioned in APRESS that the factories that fall under these regulation criteria should submit a seasonal report to the local environmental authority (Environmental Protection Bureau). The content of the report should include the chemical usage data, operating gas flow rate, circulating liquid flow rate, and pH value of inorganic acid control devices (wet scrubbers).



Figure 2. Monthly variation in usage amount of HF (Oct 2001–Sep 2002).

There are 36 semiconductor factories that fall under the regulation of APRESS, operating at Science-Based Industrial Park (SBIP), Hsin-chu County, Taiwan. Five to 10 fabs were selected to estimate the emission factors of HF, H_2SO_4 , and HCl in this study, based on whether they use these chemicals. These fabs are better representative of the database of inorganic acid emission factors, because they are large-scale factories and involve similar types of manufacturing processes and facilities (Table 3). All of the data from some small factories are not available, but from the available data, it can be predicted that the selected fabs are the representative of the 36 factories. The collected information of representative factories includes the type and amount of chemicals used, operating flow rate, and monthly production quantity for each factory.

Emission Estimation

There is no continuous emission monitor (CEM) system for the monitoring of inorganic acid concentration. However, there are monitoring data for operating gas flow rate, circulating liquid flow rate, and pH value of wet scrubbers. For estimation of the emission of inorganic acids, the source test method was adopted. Sampling of inorganic acid was based on porous metal denuders containing a



Figure 3. Monthly variation in HF emission amount (Oct 2001–Sep 2002)



Figure 4. Monthly variation in usage amount of HCI (Oct 2001–Sep 2002).

Teflon filter to collect particles followed by two porous metal discs coated with 5% sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3) and 4% citric acid to absorb acidic and basic gases,^{5,6} respectively. The sampling flow rate was maintained at 2 L/min. After sampling, the filters were extracted with deionized water and the samples were then analyzed by ion chromatography (model 4500i, Dionex Corp.). The method used to calculate the emission amount is as follows:

Emission amount hourly (kg/month)

= actual mass concentration $(g/Nm^3) \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg/g}$ (1)

 \times average emission gas flow rate (Nm³/hr)

imes 24 (hr) imes monthly working days

Emission Factor

The emission factor is defined as the average emission of air pollutant produced by per-unit production or original chemical consumption. In this study, the emission factor $(E_{\rm f})$ is determined by the following equation:

$$E_{\rm f} = M_{\rm E}/P \tag{2}$$

where $M_{\rm E}$ is pollutant mass emission per unit period (e.g., kg/day); and *P* is usage amount of chemicals per unit period (e.g., L/day).

- The estimating steps of the emission factor^{7–12} were
- Step 1: Collecting the monthly amount of chemicals used.



Figure 5. Monthly variation in HCl emission amount (Oct 2001-Sep 2002)



Figure 6. Monthly variation in usage amount of H₂SO₄ 20 (Oct 2001–Sep 2002).

- Step 2: Analyzing the relationship between the total amount of chemicals used and the original emission amount per unit period for selected fabs.
- Step 3: Estimating the emission factor for each semiconductor factory. The calculation was based on the amount of pollutant emitted per unit usage amount of chemicals.
- Step 4: A linear regression function (y = ax) was employed to fit the data of usage amount of chemicals and emission amount from different fabs. The correlation coefficient (\mathbb{R}^2) also was determined to verify the relationship, and the emission factor was presented.

Emission Characteristic

Inorganic acid emission profiles of six typical IC manufacturing fabs (i.e., T-2, T-3, T-5, Um, Cd, and Sd fabs) were determined by carrying out the stack sampling using the porous method denuders sampler. The samples were analyzed by ion chromatography.

RESULTS

Figure 2 shows the monthwise total usage of HF for each factory. The monthly variation in the HF emission amount is represented in Figure 3. Figures 4 and 5 show the monthly total usage and emission of HCl for each factory, respectively. The monthly variation in H_2SO_4 total usage and emission amount are represented in



Figure 7. Monthly variation in H₂SO₄ emission amount (Oct 2001–Sep 2002).

Table 4. Monthly average emission factor of HF (kg/L).

Fab	Oct 01	Nov O1	Dec 01	Jan 02	Feb 02	Mar 02	Apr 02	May 02	Jun 02	Jul 02	Aug 02	Sep 02	Avg.	CV (%)
T-3	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.0043	11.4
T-2	0.008	0.009	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.007	0.007	0.008	0.008	0.007	0.008	0.009	0.0084	13.8
T-5	0.007	0.006	0.005	0.005	0.006	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.007	0.0053	20.1
Um	0.003	0.004	0.005	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.0039	18.7
Sd		_	_	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.015	0.011	0.012	0.012	0.013	0.0132	9.8
Fc	0.017	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	0.015	0.014	0.013	0.018	0.017	0.010	0.013	0.0153	15.3
UI	0.004	0.005	_	0.004	0.004	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.004	0.005	0.003	0.003	0.0038	19.7
Averag	e 0.0075 (C	V = 60.7%	n = 80)											

Notes: — = Data not available; CV = Coefficient of variation; n = Number of data.

Table 5. Monthly average emission factor of HCI (kg/L).

Fab	Oct 01	Nov O1	Dec 01	Jan 02	Feb 02	Mar 02	Apr 02	May 02	Jun 02	Jul 02	Aug O2	Sep 02	Avg.	CV (%)
Fs	0.015	0.015	0.012	0.015	0.010	0.013	0.012	0.011	0.010	0.010	0.012	0.010	0.0121	16.7
Cd	0.012	0.011	0.012	0.019	0.010	0.012	_	_	_	_		_	0.0127	25.3
T-2	0.019	0.020	0.019	0.016	0.015	0.017	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.015	0.011	0.011	0.0147	24.4
T-5	0.018	0.017	0.015	0.017	0.017	0.020	0.016	0.018	0.016	0.024	0.021	0.022	0.0184	14.9
T-3	0.0029	0.0027	0.0027	0.0058	0.0046	0.0049	0.0057	0.0057	0.0055	0.0050	0.0045	0.0050	0.0046	25.6
Um	0.0018	0.0017	0.0019	0.0012	0.0016	0.0018	0.0013	0.0015	0.0018	0.0015	0.0013	0.0015	0.0016	14.6
Ht		0.0021	0.0011	0.0014	0.0013	0.0019		_	_		_	_	0.0016	27.0
Km	0.0049	0.0054	0.0054	0.0056	0.0052	0.0044	0.0037	0.0031	0.0027	0.0024	0.0024	0.0019	0.0039	35.2
Sd			_	0.019		0.020	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.0155	16.2
Averac	ge 0.0096 (C	V = 68.2%	n = 91)											

Notes: — = Data not available; CV = Coefficient of variation; n = Number of data.

Table 6. Monthly average emission factor of H_2SO_4 (kg/L).

Fab	Oct 01	Nov 01	Dec 01	Jan 02	Feb 02	Mar 02	Apr 02	May O2	Jun 02	Jul 02	Aug 02	Sep 02	Avg.	CV (%)
Um	0.00041	0.00043	0.00049	0.00049	0.00049	0.00052	0.00041	0.00042	0.00045	0.00036	0.00041	0.00038	0.00044	11.3
T-2	0.00096	0.00086	0.001	0.00067	0.00087	0.00094	0.00050	0.0005	0.00062	0.00067	0.00057	0.00055	0.00073	25.9
Fs3				0.0021	0.0017	0.0021	0.0024	0.0022	0.0023				0.00213	11.4
Kg	0.0038	0.0014	0.0013	0.0023	0.0014	0.001	0.0013	0.0013	0.0013	0.0014	0.0018	0.0016	0.00166	45.2
Fs	0.00091	0.00089	0.00081	0.00094	0.00081	0.001	0.00068	0.00061	0.00057	0.00066	0.00061	0.00055	0.00075	21
Cd	0.00054	0.00051	0.00046	0.00049	0.00044	0.00050	0.00045	0.00059	0.00050	0.00049	0.00045	0.00055	0.0005	9.11
lt	0.0021	0.0024	0.0014	0.0029	0.0024	0.0023	0.0014	0.002	0.0021	0.0013	0.0021	0.0011	0.00196	27.8
Ht	0.0064	0.0067	0.0065	0.0063	0.0064	0.0065							0.00647	2.1
Lv	0.00050	0.00046	0.00064	0.00061	0.00055	0.00065	0.00043	0.00048	0.00054	0.00087	0.00126	0.00106	0.00067	38.7
Hg	0.0032	0.0045	0.0037	0.0039	0.0033	0.0041		0.0047	0.0045	0.0046	0.0044	0.0033	0.00402	14.2
Averag	e 0.0016 (C	V = 99.2%	<i>n</i> = 107)											

Notes: — = Data not available; CV = Coefficient of variation; n = Number of data.

Figures 6 and 7, respectively. The data of HF, HCl, and H_2SO_4 emission factors, E_f , are given in Tables 4, 5, and 6, respectively.

According to Table 4, the final average value of the emission factor (i.e., $E_{\rm f}$ for HF) is estimated to be 0.0075 kg/L (coefficient of variation [CV] = 60.7%, n = 80). To justify the relationship between the amount of usage of HF (see Figure 2) and the HF emission amount (see Figure 3), a linear regression statistics analysis (for n = 80) was performed as shown in Figure 8. The linear regression equation is determined to be y = 0.0052x (where y = HF emission amount, x = usage amount of HF). The regression analysis shows that $E_{\rm f}$ is equal to 0.0052 kg/L with correlation coefficient (R²) = 0.82, which is close to the estimated emission factor.

According to Tables 5 and 6, the final average values of $E_{\rm f}$ for HCl and H₂SO₄ are estimated to be 0.0096 kg/L (CV = 68.2%, *n* = 91) and 0.0016 kg/L (CV = 99.2%, *n* = 107), respectively. To justify the relationship between the usage amount of HCl and H₂SO₄ (see Figures 4 and 6) and their emission amount (see Figures 5 and 7), the linear regression statistics analysis were performed as shown in Figures 9 and 10, respectively. The linear regression equations are determined to be y = 0.011x for HCl (n =91) and y = 0.00048x for H₂SO₄ (n = 107). The emission factors determined by regression analysis (i.e., $E_{\rm f}$ for HCl) is equal to 0.011 kg/L with $R^2 = 0.9$, which is almost the same as the estimated value, whereas for H₂SO₄, E_f is equal to 0.00048 kg/L with $R^2 = 0.84$. The difference between estimated and regression analysis values of $E_{\rm f}$ for H₂SO₄ attributed as the CV of the estimated value is very high, which may be because of the comparatively lower $E_{\rm f}$

(because of the low emission rates and high usage of H_2SO_4).

To understand the emission characteristics, inorganic acid emission profiles of eight typical IC manufacturing fabs were determined by ion chromatography analysis. Figures 11 and 12 show the gas and the particle emission profiles of inorganic acids for T-2, T-3, T-5, Um, Cd, and Sd fabs.

DISCUSSION

In general, the monthly usage of chemicals in all the factories is found to be consistent. Figures 2, 4, and 6 show the variation profiles of total usage of HF, HCl, and H_2SO_4 , respectively, and are mostly steady except for the variation in factory T-3 in Figure 2. Similarly, Figures 3, 5, and 7 show that the monthly variation in the emission amounts of all the factories is very stable except for factory T-3 in Figure 3. This also can be seen in Figures 8–10 (i.e., the R² values show that the usage amount of chemicals and the emission amount are correlated quite considerably). In other words, while the amount of chemical usage increases, the emission amount also increases proportionally.

The emission factors of HF, HCl, and H_2SO_4 for the wafer production processes of the IC industries are estimated to be 0.0075, 0.0096, and 0.0016 kg/L, respectively. According to Figure 11, the most dominant gas emission in factories T-2, T-3, T-5, Um, and Sd is HF, which is emitted mainly from the cleaning and etching processes. For example, in the emission profile of factory T-2, the dominant chemicals are HF (85%) and HCl (15%). In addition, HNO₃ is present in the emission profiles of



Figure 8. Relationship between emission and usage of HF in semiconductor manufacturing processes.



Figure 9. Relationship between emission and usage of HCl in semiconductor manufacturing processes

factory Cd, while it is totally absent in factories T-2, T-3, T-5, Um, and Sd profiles, depending on what kind of chemicals the fabs are using. A significant amount of HNO_3 emissions (74%) is identified in factory Cd.

Figure 12 shows the particle emission profiles of inorganic acids. Based on this figure, the most dominant species of the emission is fluorine (F^-) in factories T-5 and Sd. However, in factories T-2 and T-3, the H₂SO₄ droplet is the main component of the emissions. In the Sd emission profile, chlorine (Cl⁻) is the most dominant emission species. A significant amount of nitrate (NO₃⁻) emission is identified in factories Cd and T-3 profiles, but they are totally absent in factory T-2 and Sd profiles. In summary, the six emission profiles of fabs T-2, T-3, T-5, Um, Cd, and Sd can be treated as the representative profiles for the fabs considered in this study.

CONCLUSIONS

Emission factors are estimated to be 0.0075 kg/L with CV = 60.7%, n = 80 (HF); 0.0096 kg/L with CV = 68.2%, n = 91 (HCl); and 0.0016 kg/L with CV = 99.2%, n = 107 (H₂SO₄) for semiconductor manufacturing processes based on the collected data and analyzed from typical fabs. Care should be taken to apply these emission factors



Figure 10. Relationship between emission and usage of H₂SO₄ in semiconductor manufacturing processes.



Figure 11. Gas inorganic acid emission profiles of six semiconductor manufacturing fabs.

in many situations, such as in ambient dispersion modeling and analysis, control strategy development, and screening sources for compliance investigation. These emission factors represent the average value from limited fab source data without consideration of control equipment. Average emissions may differ significantly from source to source as shown by the CV in this study (see Tables 4-6). The emission would be greatly reduced if control equipment was properly selected, installed, and operated. In addition, the emission profiles represent the fingerprint of the fab emission and show that HF is the most dominant chemical in the gaseous emission of al-



Figure 12. Particle inorganic acid emission profiles of six semiconductor manufacturing fabs.

most all fabs; however, in the fingerprint of particle emission, the H_2SO_4 droplet, F^- , and Cl^- are the main emission species, which depends on whether the fab is using the chemical.

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