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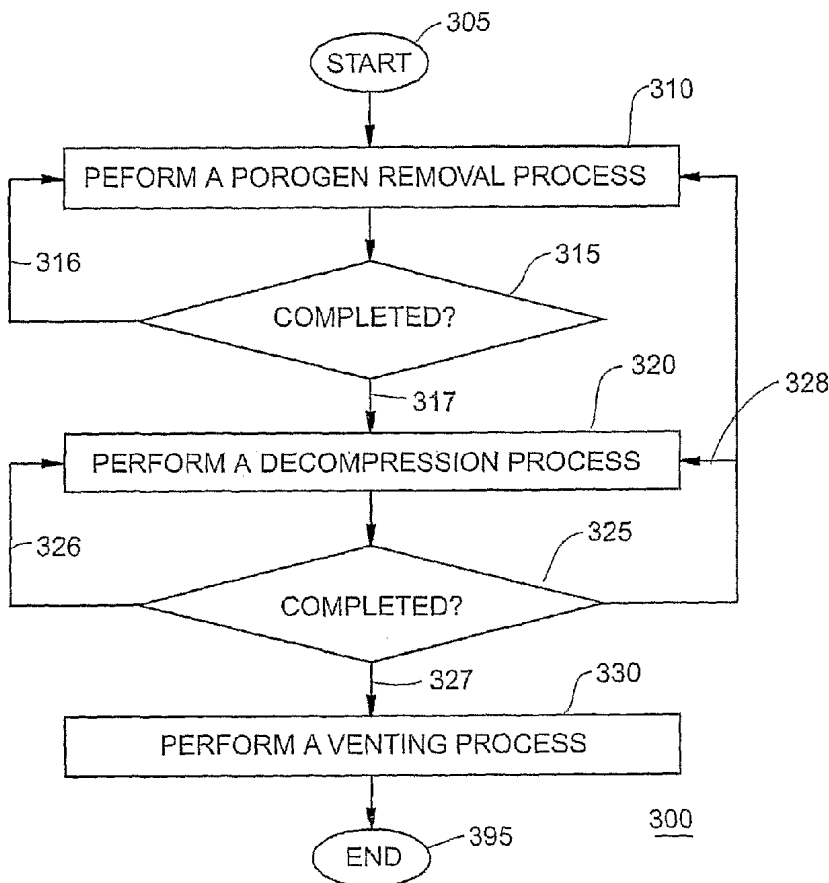
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: REMOVAL OF POROGENS AND POROGEN RESIDUES USING SUPERCRITICAL CO₂



(57) Abstract: A method of and apparatus for treating a substrate to remove porogens and/or porogen residues form a dielectric layer using a processing chamber operating at a supercritical state is disclosed. In addition, other supercritical processes can be performed before and/or after the removal process.

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 USPC: 134/2,26
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US PG Pub 2003/0198895 (TOMA et al) 23 October 2003 (23.10.2003), abstract, paragraph 26, 33, 48-58	1-5, 7, 8, 11-12, 14-25, 30-32 ----- 1-5, 7-8, 11-12, 14-22, 29, 33-35
Y	US PG Pub 2004/034515 (CASTRUCCI) 15 July 2004 (15.07.2004), paragraph 12	6, 9, 13
Y	US 6,764,552 (JOYCE et al) 20 June 2004 (20.06.2004), col. 9, lines 4-29.	10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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