ORIGINAL

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Clean version of revised claims

We Claim :

1. A glass-preform manufacturing method comprising:

a fixing step for preparing a starting member by inserting a mandrel into a tubular handle, the mandrel and the tubular handle being fixed together such that the tip portion of the mandrel protrudes from an end of the tubular handle;

a deposition step for producing a glass soot body by depositing glass particles on the circumference of the starting member by subjecting the starting member and a glass synthesizing burner to relative two-way motions along the axial direction of the mandrel in a range extending from the tip portion of the mandrel to a part of the tubular handle;

an extraction step for pulling out the mandrel from the tubular handle and the glass soot body;

a vitrification step for producing a consolidated glass pipe by heating the glass soot body in a heating furnace and thereafter cooling the consolidated glass pipe under the conditions where a dry gas is introduced into the heating furnace and the humidity of atmosphere around the consolidated glass pipe is maintained at 0.1% or less; and

a collapsing step for producing a solid glass preform by reducing the pressure inside of the consolidated glass pipe while heating the consolidated glass pipe.

2. A glass-preform manufacturing method according to claim 1, wherein

chlorine gas is introduced into the inside of the consolidated glass pipe when the pressure inside of the glass pipe is reduced at the collapsing step.

3. A glass-preform manufacturing method according to claim 2, wherein

the amount of chlorine gas introduction per minute (SLM) is one half or more of the internal volume of the consolidated glass pipe.

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