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Comparing the Passivation Quality of Ozone and H₂O Oxidant of Atomic Layer Deposited Al₂O₃ by Post-annealing in N₂ and Forming Gas Ambients for Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell (PERC)

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The effect of rear passivation for passivated emitter and rear cell (PERC) using ozone and H₂O oxidant of atomic layer deposited (ALD) Al₂O₃ was studied by post-annealing in N₂ and forming gas ambients. Rear surface of PERC solar cell was passivated by Al₂O₃ grown by ALD with ozone and H₂O oxidant. Al₂O₃ grown by ALD with ozone oxidant has been known to have many advantages, such as lower interface defects, low leakage current density. Its passivation quality is better than Al₂O₃ with H₂O. Al₂O₃ layer with 10 nm and 20 nm thickness was grown at 150°C with ozone oxidant and at 250°C with H₂O oxidant. And then each samples were post-annealed at 450°C in N₂ ambients and at 850°C in forming gas ambients. The passivation quality was investigated by measuring the minority carrier lifetime respectively. We examined atomic layer deposited Al₂O₃ such as growth rate, film density, thickness, negative fixed charge density at AlO_x/Si interface, and reflectance. The influences of process temperature and heat treatment were investigated using Sinton (WCT-120) by Quasi-Steady State Photoconductance (QSSPC) mode. Ozone-based ALD Al₂O₃ film shows the best carrier lifetime at lower deposition temperature than H₂O-based ALD.

Keywords: ALD, Al₂O₃, passivation, lifetime