# JEDEC PUBLICATION

# FOUNDRY PROCESS QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES – FRONT END TRANSISTOR LEVEL

(Wafer Fabrication Manufacturing Sites)

JEP001-2A (Revision of JEP001A, February 2014)

**SEPTEMBER 2018** 

JEDEC SOLID STATE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION



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#### Foreword

The publication is divided into three parts, backend of line (JEP001-1A), transistor level (JEP001-2A), and product level testing (JEP001-3A). The document provides methodologies for the minimum set of measurements to qualify a new semiconductor wafer process. It is written with particular reference to a generic silicon based CMOS logic technology. While it may be applicable to other technologies (e.g., analog CMOS, bipolar, BICMOS, GaAs, etc.), some sections apply specifically to CMOS. No effort was made in the present document to cover all the qualification requirements for specific other technologies, e.g., Cu/Low K interconnects or ultra-thin gate oxide.

Any qualification requirements beyond the minimum set are to be developed for the specific performance expected of the technology. The minimum set of measurements and the requirements for the qualification based on those measurements are to be determined between the foundry and its customers on an individual basis The process technology owner (foundry) will be required to document the details of specific testing unique to the process being qualified.

The guideline documents common best practices in the semiconductor industry and updated in accordance to advancement in the semiconductor industry and JEDEC bylaws of periodic reviews.

#### Introduction

This publication, was originally published as JP-001 entitled 'Foundry Process Qualification Guidelines', it was co-sponsored by JEDEC and the FSA (Fabless Semiconductor Association). It originated at the FSA as a technology specific document, and has evolved into a generic set of qualification methodologies. The JEDEC sponsoring committee is JC-14 through its JC-14.2 subcommittee on wafer level reliability.

This document encompasses and references a number of other standards and procedures, some of which are in a state of constant revision and update. While a case might be made for producing a lean, concise guideline that does not spell out specific procedures or requirements, the proposition of spelling out the essence of a comprehensive set of methodologies in one place has a practical value that outweighs the case for simplicity.(comment : the requirements are only spelled out in a number of cases. Best to be consistent and let the existing JEDEC specs speak for themselves)

This publication is split into three parts: JEP001-1A, JEP001-2A, and JEP001-3A as described below. It is intended that each part references the appropriate test and requirement noting that some tests may be performed on the package level. This standard should be read alongside reliability requirements established between the supplier and customer.

The structure of the JEDEC JEP001 series as currently conceived is as follows:

- Part 1 Backend of line testing
- Part 2 Transistor-level testing
- Part 3 Product-level testing

#### Acronyms

The following acronyms have been used in this document.

- WLR: wafer level reliability
- IMD: inter/intra-metal dielectric
- HCI: hot carrier integrity
- GOI: gate oxide integrity
- VRDB: voltage ramp dielectric breakdown
- TDDB: time-dependent dielectric breakdown
- QBD: Charge to breakdown
- P2ID: plasma-process induced damage
- BTS: bias temperature stress
- TVS: triangular voltage sweep
- NBTI: negative bias temperature instability
- HTOL: high temperature operating life
- ESD: electrostatic discharge
- HBM: human body model
- MM: machine model
- CDM: charged device model
- TQV: technology qualification vehicle
- PCM: process control monitor
- FA: failure analysis

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# FOUNDRY PROCESS QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES - FRONT END TRANSISTOR LEVEL (Wafer Fabrication Manufacturing Sites)

(From JEDEC Board Ballot JCB-18-15, formulated under the co-sponsorship of the JC-14.2 Subcommittee on Wafer Level Reliability.)

#### 1 Scope

This document describes transistor-level test and data methods for the qualification of semiconductor technologies. It does not give pass or fail values or recommend specific test equipment, test structures or test algorithms. Wherever possible, it references applicable JEDEC such as JESD47 or other widely accepted standards for requirements documentation.

There are two levels of qualification described. Level 1 is a pure process qualification intended to find reliability weaknesses. It primarily addresses technology wearout mechanisms through package or wafer level reliability tests on specially designed test structures.

Level 2 demonstrates the reliability of the process that corresponds to the reliability demands from projected or known applications. Level 2 testing can be implemented via the testing of a relevant functional technology qualification vehicle (TQV), including life test. The level 2 tests are described in Section 12. Other Reporting requirements (e.g., PCM data) are also included.

#### 2 Quality system

It is the responsibility of the foundry to have the appropriate quality system in place with special emphasis on issues relating to equipment capability, maintenance and calibration, continuous improvement and process control. In particular, a functioning SPC methodology should be demonstrated for all key processes (see EIA/JEDEC EIA-557A). As a minimum the foundry will have ISO9001 certification. The ISO9001 audit results by a third party and subsequent corrective actions on deficiencies shall be made available to the customer upon request. For those supplying to automotive applications, the foundry may also have to demonstrate requirements from the IATF TS 16949 standard to meet the needs of these products.

#### 3 Responsibilities

#### 3.1 Level 1 qualification

The foundry is responsible for the design and implementation of the level 1 test vehicle (i.e., TESTCHIP). For the special case of a foundry customer driving process development, development of the level 1 test vehicle may be shouldered in whole or in part by the customer. The foundry shall fabricate the qualification silicon, execute the described level 1 tests and create the qualification report. The tests and qualification report may be done by the foundry or third party test vendor. The qualification requirements may be reduced for a derivative process, where the parent process has already been fully qualified at the same location.

#### 3.2 Level 2 qualification

In general, the foundry is responsible for the design and implementation of the Level 2 test vehicle (e.g., SRAM or pilot product). For the special case of a foundry customer driving process development, or where the customer requires TQV data before such a vehicle becomes available, development of the level 2 test vehicle may be shouldered in whole or in part by the customer. The foundry, customer or third party test vendor may execute the Level 2 (TQV) tests and requisite failure analysis. The foundry will be responsible for suggesting and implementing corrective action based on the failure analysis results. The qualification report shall adhere to the minimum reporting requirements and format described in this document.

While it is expected that a particular foundry methodology may differ from the methods outlined in this document, the wafer foundry should demonstrate to the customer that it has satisfactorily addressed all issues of interest. The wafer foundry should therefore provide a documented procedure and supporting data that provide an assessment of potential failure and wearout mechanisms.

#### 3.3 Reporting Requirements

Specific reporting requirements are included for the tests catalogued in this document. General reporting requirements include appropriate signoff, archiving and revision control, and the inclusion of supporting documents as appropriate.

The level 1 qualification report shall include: (1) qualification plan, (2) description of the test vehicle including relevant test structure features and dimensions, (3) summary of test methods used, (4) pass/fail criteria and (5) test results, analysis and model parameters as described in this document.

The level 2 qualification report shall include: (1) qualification plan, (2) description of the technology qualification vehicle (TQV), (3) test description & specification, (4) pass/fail criteria (5) test results & analysis including failure rates and (6) FA results.

#### 4 Sample size

In general, data should come from 3 non-consecutive wafer lots, although the use of more lots is not precluded. A wafer lot is a group of wafers processed as a batch through the same or matched equipment in the same processing interval, using the same or matched conditions, materials, and methods. Typical sample sizes per lot are given in the individual test descriptions. Where applicable, confidence limits for each test population should be calculated. A conservative estimate of 40 die per wafer was made in determining sample size for tests that required the usage of all dies on the wafer.

#### 5 Use of packages

Packages with a wire-bonded die that are capable of higher temperatures are generally used for testing of the technology qualification vehicle (TQV) or pilot product. A qualification report for the standard wirebonding process should be included. Advanced packaging (e.g., BGA, flip-chip or chip-scale) may be substituted where applicable. This, in combination with TC and THB tests will demonstrate the assembly capability of this wafer fab process.

Side brazed ceramic packages are generally required for process wear-out tests performed at packagelevel at Temperatures greater than 155°C. Consequently, wafer level testing is recommended wherever possible.

All references to temperature in the following sections imply junction temperature unless otherwise specified.

#### 6 Reference documents

#### 6.1 Industry standard documents

The following reference documents contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this document. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based in this publication are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the reference documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest editions of the reference document referred to applies. Check the JEDEC website at http://www.jedec.org.

#### 6.1.1 Reliability assessment methodology

JEDEC JEP70, Quality and Reliability Standards and Publications.

JEDEC JEP132, Process Characterization Guidelines.

JEDEC JEP143, Solid State Reliability Assessment and Qualification Methodologies.

JEDEC JEP122, Failure Mechanisms and Models for Silicon Semiconductor Devices.

JEDEC JESD91, Method for Developing Acceleration Models for Electronic Component Failure Mechanisms.

JEDEC JESD94, Application Specific Qualification Using Knowledge Based Test Methodology.

JEDEC JESD659, Failure-Mechanism-Driven Reliability Monitoring.

JEDEC JEP131, Process Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA).

# 6.1.2 Hot carrier integrity

JEDEC JESD28, A Procedure for Measuring N-Channel MOSFET Hot-Carrier-Induced Degradation under DC Stress. See also EIA/JEDEC JESD28-1 (addendum on data analysis).

JEDEC JESD60, A Procedure for Measuring P-Channel MOSFET Hot-Carrier-Induced Degradation under DC Stress. See also JEDEC JESD60-1 (Addendum on data analysis).

#### 6.1.3 Bias Temperature Instabilities

JEDEC JESD241, Procedure for wafer-level DC characterization of bias temperature instabilities

#### 6.1.4 Gate oxide integrity

JEDEC JESD35A, *Procedure for Wafer-Level-Testing of Thin Dielectrics*. See also addendum's JESD35-1 (test structures) and JESD35-2 (test criteria). JESD92, Procedure for Characterizing Time-Dependent Dielectric Breakdown of Ultra-Thin Gate Dielectrics.

#### 6.1.5 E-Test Parameters

ASTM F616-86, Standard Test Method for Measuring MOSFET Drain Leakage Current. ASTM F617-86, Standard Test Method for Measuring MOSFET Linear Threshold Voltage. ASTM F1096-87, Standard Test Method for Measuring MOSFET Saturated Threshold Voltage.

#### 6.2 Selected references

Meeker, Q.A. and L.A. Escobar, Statistical Methods for Reliability Data, John Wiley, 1998.

Tobias, P.A. and D.C. Trindade, *Applied Reliability*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., CRC Press, 1995.

Nelson, Wayne, "Accelerated Testing: Statistical Models, Test Plans, and Data Analyses", in *Wiley Series in Probability and Mathematical Statistics-Applied Probability*, John Wiley, 1990.

Amerasekera, E.A. and F.N. Najm, *Failure Mechanisms in Semiconductor Devices*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., John Wiley, 1997.

Ohring, Milton, Reliability and Failure of Electronic Materials and Devices, Academic Press, 1998.

Yue, John, "Reliability", in C.Y. Chang and S.M. Sze (eds.), *ULSI Technology,* McGraw-Hill, 1996, Chapter 12.

Takeda, E. et al, Hot-Carrier Effects in MOS Device, Academic Press, 1995.

Amerasekera, E.A. and Charvaka Duvvury, ESD in Silicon Integrated Circuits, John Wiley, 1996.

IRPS Conference Proceedings and Tutorials are an excellent source of information on current test methodologies and reliability models. (Web site www.irps.org)

Microelectronics Reliability, Pergamon Press. This journal publishes the proceedings of ESREF, the European equivalent of IRPS, along with frequent review papers.

Abadeer, W.W., IEEE Transactions on Device and Materials Reliability, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2001, *Reliability Monitoring and Screening Issues With Ultrathin Gate Dielectric Devices.* 

#### 7 Qualification test summary table

Clause	Procedure	Standard(s)	Other Standards	Qual or Eng
8.1	DC Hot Carrier Injection	JESD28, JESD60, JEP122	EIAJ-987	Q
9.1	Voltage Ramp Dielectric Breakdown (VRDB) / Charge to Breakdown (QBD)	JESD35		Q
9.2	Time-Dependent Dielectric Breakdown (TDDB)	JESD92, JEP122	EIAJ-988	Q
9.3	Plasma Process Induced Damage (P2ID)	None		Q or E
10.1	Ionic Contamination/ Bias Temperature Stress (BTS)	None		Q or E
10.2/3	Ionic Contamination/ Triangular Voltage Sweep (TVS)	None		Q or E
10.4	Bias Temperature Instability (BTI)	JESD241, JEP122		Q
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# 8 Conducting channel hot carrier injection (HCI)

#### 8.1 DC conducting channel hot carrier (HCI)

- 1. Testing should be done on the minimum geometry device for each transistor type (NMOS, PMOS, native or low V<sub>T</sub> device, etc.). Additional device lengths may be tested for modeling purposes.
- 2. The degradation should be evaluated at the worst case bias conditions (refer to JEDEC procedures).
- 3. The failure criteria for the monitored parameters will depend on the specific requirements of the technology.
- 4. The lifetime calculated from this stress reflects operation at worst case dc bias. Use conditions may be ac. Product lifetime will depend on use of device in circuit, and ac stress testing and/or simulation is highly recommended.

# 8.1.1 DC HCI test requirements

Reference Procedures	JESD60, JESD28, JEP122, and JESD28-1
Test parameters & failure criteria	<ul> <li>a) A DUT is considered to fail when a chosen device parameter changes by more than the specified failure criterion (typically 10% change in device parameter) at worst use condition (typically V<sub>DDMAX</sub> = 1.1V<sub>DD</sub>) at a specified end of life. Example of a typical failure criterion is 10% change in forward I<sub>DSAT</sub>.</li> </ul>
	b) Selection of devirameter depends on the impact of the shift in its value on circuit operation.
	c) Device parameters such as I <sub>DSAT</sub> , G <sub>M</sub> , I <sub>DLIN</sub> , V <sub>TLIN</sub> , I <sub>OFF</sub> can be used to monitor HC degradation depending on the circuit application.
Test structures	<u>BOTH NMOSFET / PMOSFET:</u> Minimum and nominal channel length L (W if required) as allowed by the circuit design rules. All Voltage Supply Device options offered must be evaluated. See JESD28 and JESD60 for requirements.
Vehicle	Wafer Level or Packaged Level
Method	<u>Stress Temperature</u> : While the activation energy for HCl is generally small and can be either positive or negative, it is recommended that the activation energy be determined over the full range of expected product operation. Project to EOL conditions using this activation energy The device junction temperature should be held to an accuracy of $\pm 2$ °C for the duration of stress/test. See JESD28 and JESD60.
	Drain-Source Voltage @ stress: Test at 3-5 different V <sub>DS</sub> stress conditions
	<u>Gate-Source Voltage @ stress</u> : Determine worst-case $V_{GS}$ taking operating conditions into account. (This can be at Peak I <sub>SUB</sub> or $V_{GS} = V_{DS}$ or $V_{GS} = V_{DD} / 2$ for NMOSFET and PMOSFET devices, see JESD28, JESD60 & JEP122).
	NOTE: If these gate stresses are not suitable per intended application, then preliminary stress tests should be implemented to characterize and identify allowable worst gate stress condition. Also, short and long channels should be considered to identify allowable worst gate stress condition.
	<u>Readouts</u> : Log time scale with minimum two log-time intervals per decade (at least 2 points per decade.)
Model to be used	$1/V_{DS}$ model applies if HCI is worst at lower temperature, different $V_{DS}$ model e.g., exponential or power-law as demonstrated by the data applies if HCI is worst at higher temperature. Must characterize $V_{GS}/V_{DS}$ dependence to find worst case, with 3-5 $V_{GS}/V_{DS}$ as typical conditions).
Sample size	Required
	a) Test nominal devices from 3 lots, 3 wafers per lot, 5 sites minimum per bias condition, at 3-5 $V_{\text{DS}}$ stress conditions and 3-5 $V_{\text{GS}}$ .
	Additional (not gating qualification)
	b) Test nominal devices from > 10 lots with different manufacturing dates. Test 10 sites per wafer at one V <sub>DS</sub> stress condition and for a given L <sub>EFF</sub> . Short In line HC stresses at worst case condition can be run to provide the statistics. The resulting distribution is a measure of the HC sensitivity to intrinsic process tolerances.
	NOTE 1 <u>Process Corners</u> : The hot carrier lifetime may vary widely across a typical process window. It is a sensitive function of gate length. For this reason, extraction of hot carrier lifetime for the nominal device can yield an optimistic result. It is therefore recommended to include in the evaluation test samples that give a measure of performance near the process corners.
_<	NOTE 2 Data collected in part (b) is intended as supplemental data, to be collected over time, at the same time that product yield data is collected. This is not necessarily a qualification gating item.
Merit number	Lifetime projection at temperature and voltage conditions appropriate for the application. BTI shift should be decoupled from HCI shift by, for example, comparing high and low temperature shift.
í N	

#### 8.1.2 Report requirements

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1) Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.
- General process features may include: device isolation scheme (LOCOS, STI), oxide thickness, minimum drawn device lengths and widths, minimum electrical L<sub>EFF</sub>, source and drain engineering, sidewall/spacer process.
- 3) Relevant spec limits: Effective channel length and width, drain current, threshold voltage, substrate current, Gate current, Channel off current, overlap capacitance.
- 4) Description of test structures and test conditions (V<sub>DS</sub> & V<sub>GS</sub>) for each transistor type.
- 5) Sample size for each stress condition.
- 6) Failure criterion and parameters selected to monitor HC degradation.
- 7) Measured parameter ranges: drain current, substrate current, etc.
- 8) Acceleration models used and extracted parameters for these models.
- 9) Extracted parameters for the specific hot carrier degradation model used.
- 10) Lognormal sigma of the HC shifts from collected data.
- 11) Decoupling of BTI shift from HCI shift should be shown.

#### 9 Gate oxide integrity (GOI)

#### 9.1 Voltage ramp dielectric breakdown (V-RAMP) & charge to breakdown (QBD)

- 1. Follow the V-RAMP test procedure described in JEDEC standard JESD35-A.
  - Test is done in accumulation or inversion mode, at room temperature.
    - Test is done at wafer level.
    - Start voltage is V<sub>USE</sub>.
    - Typical ramp rate: 1MV/cm-s; Setup duration: 0.1s (please note that ramp rate is a variable that should represent test objective and design features)
    - Breakdown is defined as a change in current density between successive voltage steps.
    - Post-breakdown test is done at V<sub>USE</sub>.
- 2. The primary purpose of this test is to evaluate the extrinsic behavior of the MOS gate oxide being qualified.
- 3. The V-RAMP test is usually done in accumulation. Testing in inversion is also recommended. However, care should be taken to avoid difficulties caused by certain structures, if there is no low resistance current path to the substrate.
- 4. The V-RAMP test should be done on both NMOS and PMOS capacitors, for every type of oxide in the technology.
- 5. The preferred test structure is a capacitor array dimensionally representative of product (e.g., transistor array). Variously, a combination of at least three different geometry devices may be tested: isolation Edge Block (Area), Isolation Edge Finger (trench or Fox edge) and Gate Edge Finger.
- 6. The procedure of detection and analysis of gate dielectric defects is given by JESD35-A Annex A. The sample requirement to demonstrate a given target defect density may be determined by using the formula below (see JESD35-A), where N is the total sample size, A<sub>TEST</sub> is the gate area per test structure and D<sub>0</sub> is the target defect density:

#### $N^*A_{TEST} > -\ln(1-0.95)/D_0$

- 7. Distributions, not averages should be quoted.
- 8. The charge to breakdown ( $Q_{BD}$ ) may be calculated by integrating the current density through the capacitor until the last point before breakdown. Care should be exercised in interpreting  $Q_{BD}$ , particularly for thin oxides, where there is weak correlation to oxide quality, and where  $Q_{BD}$  is a function of stress voltage.

Reference procedure	JESD35-A
Test parameters	<ul> <li>Record the following parameters for each capacitor tested:</li> <li>1. Initial current at nominal use voltage</li> <li>2. Ramp rate, step size and step duration.</li> <li>3. Breakdown voltage for each DUT.</li> <li>4. Failure criterion. One or more of the following will indicate the failure point: 10x increase in current, slope change, low-voltage current increase, and increase in noise level.</li> <li>5. Final current at nominal use voltage.</li> <li>6. Stress and measurement mode: accumulation or inversion.</li> <li>NOTE Refer to discussion on thinner oxides in JESD35-A.</li> </ul>
Test Structures	<ul> <li>Test both NMOS and PMOS capacitors.</li> <li>Test structures should include either: <ul> <li>a) A capacitor array dimensionally representative of product (e.g., transistor array) or</li> <li>b) A combination of three different geometry devices: Isolation Edge Block (Area), Isolation Edge Finger (trench or F<sub>OX</sub> edge) and Gate Edge Finger. An effort should be made to have the total area, isolation edge and gate edge tested representative of their ratios in the product.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Based on given technology and design, if no other methods or tools are available, large capacitor area for testing may be used for defect density quantification (e.g., 10 cm<sup>2</sup> total area per gate dielectric type for D<sub>0</sub>~ 1 defect/cm<sup>2</sup>). Other methods may include use of representative test vehicles and products to quantify defect characteristics.</li> <li>Where more than one oxide is used, each oxide thickness is to be tested (e.g., LV, HV).</li> </ul>
Vehicle	Wafer Level
Method	Automated wafer level reliability test, where the voltage is ramped up from $V_{\text{USE}}$ until oxide breakdown occurs.
Model to be used	<ul> <li>None.</li> <li>1. Breakdown data is to be subdivided into three populations: mode A, mode B, and mode C: <ul> <li>Mode A is the population which fails at V<sub>USE</sub>.</li> <li>Mode B is the population that fails at a voltage &gt; V<sub>USE</sub>, but presents a reliability hazard over the life of the product. This is essentially the population that falls outside the intrinsic population. Mode C is primarily the intrinsic population, failing beyond the useful lifetime of the product.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The breakdown voltage distribution is to be plotted on an extreme value cumulative distribution plot, and both the intrinsic slope and extrinsic slope determined, where feasible. For low defect density oxide, or where too small a sample size is used, there may be too few data points to allow determination of the extrinsic slope.</li> <li>NOTE The Weibull distribution is one specific form of the extreme value distribution.</li> </ul>
Sample size	<ul> <li>For each oxide type: <ul> <li>Minimum two lots.</li> <li>Both NMOS &amp; PMOS capacitor test structures</li> <li>Large total area recommended (e.g., 10 cm<sup>2</sup> or other values).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Example: <ul> <li>Assuming capacitors with area of 0.3 mm<sup>2</sup>, the number of wafers to be tested would be:</li> <li>1000 mm<sup>2</sup> / (2 device types * 35 sites * 0.3 mm<sup>2</sup> * 3 lots) = 16 wafers per lot.</li> <li>Sample size to be increased proportionately for smaller area capacitors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Merit number	<ul> <li>Report the following for each of the structures tested.</li> <li>1. Percent mode A, B, and C</li> <li>2. Mode A defect density.</li> <li>3. Mode B density.</li> <li>4. Mode C median breakdown voltage.</li> <li>5. Extreme value plot of V<sub>BD</sub>, with intrinsic and extrinsic slopes extracted. (Optional)</li> <li>Lot Identification. Wafer No. Die Location. Structure Name. Gate Oxide Thickness. Current Density.</li> </ul>
	Prior to Breakdown. Voltage at Breakdown.

# 9.1.1 VRDB/ QBD test requirements

#### 9.1.2 Report requirements

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1. Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.
- 2. Relevant process features: device isolation scheme (LOCOS, STI), oxide thickness.
- 3. Brief description of test structures (device type, gate area, poly edge, Fox edge)
- 4. Brief description of test conditions (temperature, polarity, stress voltage, fail limits)
- 5. Sample size for each stress condition.
- 6. Measured parameters from oxide characterization: ellipsometry, I-V, C-V, QM analysis.

NOTE Ellipsometry may be replaced by other electrical measurements for thin gate oxide (e.g., < 5nm, per JESD90)

- Measured initial leakage at V<sub>USE</sub>. Data should be presented in an extreme value plot or similar format. Where leakage data includes values > 10X the media value, a wafer map representation may be required.
- 8. Extracted parameters from extreme value plot: Median breakdown voltage, intrinsic slope, extrinsic slope (if sufficient data).
- 9. Report the following:
  - a. Percent mode A, B & C for each structure and lot tested.
  - b. Mode A and mode B defect densities.
  - c. Mode C breakdown voltage  $(T_{63})$
  - d. Optional: Extreme value plots and distribution parameters.

#### 9.2 Time-dependent dielectric breakdown (TDDB)

- 1. The TDDB test is used to model the intrinsic behavior in the technology being qualified using temperature and voltage acceleration.
- 2. The time to fail (t<sub>BD</sub>) scales inversely with voltage, temperature and the oxide area being tested.
- 3. At least three defect generation mechanisms have been identified in the breakdown of gate dielectrics: Impact ionization and anode hole-injection at higher voltages, and trap creation at operating voltages.
- 4. Current evidence points to a critical defect density (N<sup>BD</sup>) which may be voltage and time dependent.
- 5. The statistics of gate oxide breakdown are described by the Weibull distribution, which is defined by the characteristic life, t<sub>63</sub>, and the Weibull slope,

$$F(t) = 1 - \exp[-(t / t_{63})^{\beta}].$$

6. For thinner oxides, the first breakdown – whether soft or hard (see note) - should be used in the statistical distribution.

NOTE the distinction between soft and hard breakdown is based on the post-breakdown behavior of the test structure, which depends in large measure on the energy dissipated in the filamentary short. Hard breakdown results in a resistive short (several orders increase in current). By contrast, soft breakdown results in a non-zero resistive path (a few-fold increase in current).

7. Where a field dependence model is appropriate, it is important to model the oxide thickness and oxide field accurately.

#### 9.2.1 TDDB test requirements

Reference procedure	JESD92
Test parameters	<ul> <li>Record the following parameters for each capacitor tested:</li> <li>1. Initial current at nominal use voltage</li> <li>2. Initial current at start of stress.</li> <li>3. Failure time for each DUT. Fit data for each stress condition on a Weibull plot to obtain t<sub>63</sub> and the Weibull slope (β).</li> <li>4. Final current at nominal use voltage. (Optional)</li> </ul>
Failure criterion	<ul> <li>Any of several failure criteria may be used, e.g., increase in current, increase in current at use voltage or lower, increase in stress current, increase in stress current noise.</li> </ul>
Test structures	<ul> <li>a) Test NMOS and PMOS capacitors, preferably transistor arrays reflecting actual circuit topographies.</li> <li>b) Optional: It is suggested that 2 capacitors of similar layout but very different areas be tested.</li> <li>For specific test structure criteria, see JEDEC standard JESD35.</li> </ul>
Vehicle	Package or Wafer Level
Method	<ol> <li>Constant voltage stress (CVS) at various stress voltages and temperatures.</li> <li>Preferably, test should be done both in accumulation and inversion. As a minimum, accumulation test data should be provided.</li> <li>Voltage acceleration: Use &gt; 3 voltages above V<sub>G</sub> &gt; V<sub>DDMAX</sub>.</li> <li>Temperature acceleration (optional): Use at least 3 temperatures in the range of 25-200 °C.</li> <li>If only one temperature is used, stressing at the maximum operating temperature is recommended to avoid using temperature acceleration.</li> <li>Stress until at least 63% of the samples have failed.</li> </ol>
Model to be used	Use an appropriate model to extrapolate to use conditions for the actual product die: for details see JEP122 section 5.1.
Sample size	<ul> <li>Minimum one capacitor with representative topography for each device type (NMOS &amp; PMOS) and oxide thickness</li> <li>Minimum 2 lots</li> <li>Minimum 2 wafers per lot</li> <li>Minimum 8 DUTs per wafer for every stress condition (voltage and temperature combination)</li> <li>Minimum 30 DUT per single distribution, for ultra-thin oxides &gt; 50 DUT is recommended</li> <li>Example (3 voltages @ 1 temperature): 1 array capacitor * 2 device types * 3 voltages * 8 DUTs * 2 wafers * 2 lots = 192 DUTs</li> <li>NOTE Sample size should be increased for thinner oxide, since the Weibull slope is known to</li> </ul>
	decrease with decreasing thickness.
Merit number	Depends on application
Other data required	Lot Identification, Wafer No., Die Location, Structure Name, Gate Oxide Thickness by optical and/or electric methods, Current Density Prior to Breakdown.
X	

#### 9.2.2 Report requirements

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1. Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.
- 2. Relevant process features: device isolation scheme (LOCOS, STI), oxide thickness
- 3. Brief description of test structures (device type, area, poly edge, Fox edge)
- 4. Brief description of test conditions (temperature, polarity, stress voltage, fail limits)
- 5. Sample size for each stress condition.
- 6. Measured parameters from oxide characterization: Ellipsometry, I-V, C-V.

NOTE Ellipsometry may be replaced by other electrical measurements for thin gate oxide

- 7. Measured parameters from TDDB stress: Initial current density, time to breakdown, final current density
- 8. Extracted parameters from Weibull plot: characteristic life  $t_{63}$ , Weibull slope,  $\beta$ .
- Extracted parameters for oxide degradation model, e.g., Voltage acceleration factorγ, activation energy E<sub>A</sub>.
- 10. Projected lifetime at maximum use conditions.
- 11. Optional: Construct a 90% confidence interval about the projected lifetime distribution produced in item 10 above. Compare this confidence interval to the qualification pass criteria, to judge the risk that repeating the qualification will result in a fail outcome.

#### 9.3 Plasma process-induced damage (P2ID)

- 1. The primary goal of this test is to confirm that the P2ID design rules are achievable by the process.
- 2. This test may be done as part of the qualification, or as an engineering study
- 3. This test is to be done on MOS transistors.
- 4. In many cases, it is essential to apply a stress to reveal latent damage.
- 5. Fowler-Northeim (F-N), hot carrier stress (HC), conducting and non-conducting and Negative bias temperature instability (NBTI) stress may be used to reveal latent damage. Characterization is recommended to understand sensitivity to stress conditions
- 6. The effect of P2ID is reflected by the distributions before and after stress, between reference and antenna structures, of one or more of the following parameters: Threshold voltage ( $V_T$ ), transconductance ( $G_M$ ), drain saturation current ( $I_{DSAT}$ ), drain off current ( $I_{DOFF}$ ) and gate leakage at low voltage ( $I_{LEAK}$ ).
- 7. Elapsed time considerations must not be ignored. Plasma damage may be present, with adverse effect on device reliability, even if yield at t = 0 is not.
- 8. Voltage ramp breakdown, Q<sub>BD</sub> and TDDB tests have been used to monitor possible P2ID damage. However, the sensitivity of a given test or structure appears to vary with oxide thickness.
- 9. For thinner oxides (≤ 5nm), weaker parametric shifts, or no shifts at all, may be observed for a given applied stress. Initial I<sub>LEAK</sub> at voltages which may show some tunneling current has been reported to be a sensitive indicator of damage. However, care should be exercised in the selection of test structures and the interpretation of data.

# 9.3.1 P2ID test requirements

Reference	1. C.R. Viswanathan, 1997 Int'l Symposium on P2ID, pp. 181-185
procedure	2. K. P. Cheung, IRPS 1997 Tutorial Notes Topic 4
	3. I. Hook et al, 1996 Int'l Symposium on P2ID, pp. 164-167.
	4. A. Sridharan et al, 1997 P2ID, pp. 29-32.
	5. K. P. Cheung et al, 2000 Int i Symposium on P2ID, pp. 10-13.
	6. A.Martin et al., IEEE IDMR, Vol.9, no.2, pp.135-144, 2009.
Test parameters	Wafer map distributions of reference and worst case antenna device parameters: $V_T$ , $G_M$ , $I_{DSAT}$ , $I_{DOFF}$ , and $I_{LEAK}$ , before and after FN, HC or NBTI stress. The failure criterion is one of the following:
	<ul> <li>Parameter value is outside a defined spec. limit</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Parameter difference for reference and antenna device exceeds a defined percentage limit</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Parameter shift exceeds a defined percentage limit.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Parameter spatial variation exceeds a defined percentage limit</li> </ul>
	The selected parameter(s) and defined pass/fail limits are to be demonstrated to be appropriate for the specific process.
Test structures	<ul> <li>Structure should be designed for allowable worst case setting considering (L&amp;W) geometric constraints (min, L &amp; wide W) for N &amp; P MOSFET devices for each gate oxide thickness.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Comparison between reference and antenna devices should be carried out on the same identical geometry and same dia.</li> </ul>
	The following structures of each type are to be tested:
	Peteroneo dovico: protected from plasma damago
	- Relefence device, projected from plasma damage.
	- Devices with worst case alternia ratios for each process layer, poly, contact, metally, etc.
) ( -  -   -   -	- Reference and antenna device must be connected to the probing pads in an identical way.
venicie	water level measurements at room temperature (except for INB I I at higher temperatures)
Method	Identical steps should be applied to reference and antenna devices:
	<ol> <li>Measure parameter values across wafer. Parameters to be measured to include one or more of the following: V<sub>T</sub>, G<sub>M</sub>, S, I<sub>DSAT</sub> and I<sub>DOFF</sub>.</li> </ol>
	NOTE Gate leakage current should be measured at low voltage (~1V) (for HCS or BTI): gate to bulk and gate to source/drain.
	<ol><li>Apply stress to reveal damage using one of the following:</li></ol>
	<ul> <li>a) FN Stress (gate injection in inversion). Optimum stress level to be determined for the specific process. The stress level should be sufficient to repopulate existing traps without adding excessive new damage (e.g., 10 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> for 10 sec – number of merit is an injected charge of 0.1°C/ cm<sup>2</sup>).</li> </ul>
	b) HC or NBTI stress. Stress at room temperature for conducting hot carrier, and at maximum temperature of operation (or burn-in) for NBTI or non-conducting hot carrier. Optimum stress level to be determined experimentally for the specific process.
	3 Re-measure parameter values across wafer
	4 Map parameter shift across wafer
	CAUTION A finite charging time may be associated with FN stress or gate leakage measurements on test structures with large antenna ratio, due to the high capacitance. This may lead to an overestimation of applied stress or active leakage surrout.
Model to be used	Nono
Sample size	Suggested: 180 (20 Die * 3 Waters * 3 Lots) This should be uniformly spaced across the water.
Merit number	Transistor device parameters:
	<ul> <li>Percent Variation across wafer, wafer to wafer and lot to lot.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Percent difference between reference and antenna structures on the measured devices, Percent shift pre and post stress.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Include wafer maps of the above distributions</li> </ul>
	NOTE Variations and differences can be evaluated from a cumulative distribution instead of die to die basis (or unit, sample level)
Other data required	Lot Identification; wafer number; die Location; gate Oxide Thickness; Other details such as transistor/capacitor geometry and of antenna layout (finger or area, contact array, etc.) may depend on existing supplier and customer agreements.

#### 9.3.2 Report requirements

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1) Fab name and location; process name, lot number, wafer number and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified. Describe protection scheme (e.g., MOS transistor
- 2) Relevant process features: device isolation scheme (LOCOS, STI), oxide thickness, minimum drawn device lengths, minimum L<sub>EFF</sub>.
- 3) Relevant spec limits: effective channel length, drain current, threshold voltage, and substrate current, off current.
- 4) Brief description of test structures and test conditions. Description of antenna ratios is also recommended.
- 5) Sample size per lot for each measurement.
- 6) Median value and standard deviation for each distribution of measured and calculated parameters for reference and antenna device before and after stress: Leakage current, threshold voltage, drain current and deltas.
- 7) Wafer maps for each measured/calculated parameter before and after stress.

#### 10 Threshold voltage stability

NOTE With advanced nodes driving towards thinner gate oxide, the values for Threshold Voltage Stability tests described in this section may become limited or unfeasible. Therefore they may be replaced by other test methods in accordance to the supplier's designs and capabilities or other available references.

#### 10.1 Ionic contamination – bias temperature stress

This test may be done as part of the qualification, or as an engineering study. The primary goal is to confirm that the ionic contamination level introduced into the process wafers does not adversely affect the reliability or parametric control of the process.

NOTE Either the <u>Bias Temperature Stress (BTS)</u> (see 11.1) or the <u>Triangular Voltage Sweep (TVS)</u> (see 11.2) may be used or the results reported as shown below. Demonstrate no measurable ionic contamination.

#### 10.1.1 Bias temperature stress (BTS) test requirements

Reference procedure	None. Abadeer, W.W., IEEE Transactions on Device and Materials Reliability, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2001, <i>Reliability Monitoring and Screening Issues With Ultrathin Gate Dielectric Devices</i> .
Test parameters	Threshold voltage shifts on parasitic (field) or gate oxide devices
Test structures	NMOS and PMOS transistor structures, with or without self-heating, processed to final metal. Design without the protection diode. Add metal gate field oxide parasitic test structure, (such as N-well to N-well source-drain with field ox as gate of parasitic MOS).
Vehicle	Wafer or packaged device.
Method	Heat up device to > 200 °C, apply +0.1-0.5 MV/cm field between gate and bulk, source and drain. The inversion the channel needs higher field. , for 5seconds or longer (or shorter for T>200 °C). Cool down with bias applied and measure $V_T^+$ . Heat up device again, apply reversed field to gate for 5 seconds or longer sec (or shorter for T>200 °C). Cool down with bias applied and measure NOTE: NBTI is a competing drift mechanism for PMOS inversion. $V_T^-$ . $\Delta V_T = V_T^+ - V_T^-$ . $V_T$ should be measured within 10 minutes of cool down.
Failure criteria	$V_{th}$ shift is the criteria, The magnitude of acceptable shift is mutually agreed $V_T$ shift
Model to be used	See JEP122 section 5.4
Sample size	3 lots, 1 wafer per lot, 2 devices per wafer. Check samples size relative to constructing a " $\Delta V_T$ " distribution. Too few samples and the extrapolated confidence intervals may be too large.
Merit number	Distribution of $\Delta V_T$ a distribution is not a merit number. Choices are: maximum $\Delta V_T$ , Maximum number of lons. Should be related to impact on product
Other data required	Normal batch data see if "normal batch" is in the definitions.

#### 10.1.2 BTS report requirements

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1. Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.
- 2. Relevant process features: device isolation scheme (LOCOS, STI), oxide thickness.
- 3. Brief description of test structures (device type, area, poly edge, F<sub>OX</sub> edge)
- 4. Brief description of test conditions (temperatures, polarities, stress voltages, stress times, fail limits)
- 5. Sample size.
- 6. Initial threshold voltage, threshold voltage shift  $(\Delta V_T)$ .

#### 10.2 Ionic contamination – triangular voltage sweep

This test may be done as part of the qualification, or as an engineering study. The primary goal is to confirm that the ionic contamination level introduced into the process wafers does not adversely affect the reliability or parametric control of the process.

NOTE Either the bias temperature stress (BTS) (Sect. 11.1) or the triangular voltage sweep (TVS) (sect. 11.2) may be used and the results reported as shown below. Demonstrate no measurable ionic contamination.

Reference procedure	None.
Literature references	M. W. Hillen and J. F. Verwey, Chapter 8 of Instabilities in Silicon Devices, Vol. 1, edited by G. Barbottin and A. Vapaille, 1986.
	E. H. Nicolian and J. R. Brews, MOS Physics and Technology, 1982.
Test parameters	Mobile ion concentration from capacitor displacement current.
Test structures	<ul><li>a) NMOS and PMOS capacitor</li><li>b) Metal-Insulator-Metal Capacitor</li></ul>
Method	At the temperature of > 200 °C apply +1.0 MV/cm and hold for 90 sec (or shorter for T>200 °C). Ramp down from +1.0 MV/cm to -1.0 MV/cm with 0.01 MV/cm-sec ramp rate while measuring current through the capacitor. Hold at -1.0 MV/cm for 90 sec (or shorter for T>200 °C). Ramp up from -1.0 MV/cm to +1.0 MV/cm with 0.01 MV/cm-sec ramp rate while measuring current through the capacitor. Calculate mobile ion concentration from $N_i = (area under I_{CAP} - t curve) / [(capacitor area) x (electron charge)].$
Failure criteria	Ionic concentration (Ni) level above foundry-specified limit.
Model to be used	None
Sample size	3 lots, 1 wafer per lot, 2 capacitors per wafer
Merit number	Distribution of Ni
Other data required	Normal batch data

### 10.2.1 Triangular voltage sweep (TVS) test requirements

#### **10.2.2 TVS report requirements**

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1. Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.
- 2. Relevant process features: device isolation scheme (LOCOS, STI), oxide thickness.
- 3. Brief description of test structures (device type, capacitor area, poly edge, F<sub>OX</sub> edge)
- 4. Brief description of test conditions (temperatures, polarities, stress voltages, ramp rate, hold times)
- 5. Sample size.
- 6. Ionic concentration.

#### 10.3 Bias temperature instability in MOS devices (BTI)

- 1. This test is intended to determine the degradation in threshold voltage as a result of gate bias at high temperature. This degradation is a particular concern in MOS devices.
- 2. This mode of degradation gets worse with increasing temperature and |V<sub>gs</sub>|.
- 3. At circuit level, BTI is active as long as the MOS device is in inversion even in the case of channel conduction. The worst case condition is at  $V_{ds} = 0V$ .
- 4. Testing should be done on the nominal design length and width device for qualification. Additional device lengths and widths may be tested for modeling purposes. This degradation mode may be weakly affected by edge effects.
- 5. The evaluation should include a statistically valid sample size to assess process corners. With a reduction in total active gate area, a larger sample size is needed due to increased variability in MOS transistor parameters and degradation. The failure criteria for the monitored parameters will depend on the specific requirements of the technology and the BTI sensitivity of a given circuit design.
- 6. For MOS with minimum geometries, (e.g., SRAM), and even greater degradation may be observed.

	1
Reference procedures	No PBTI standard exists yet.
Reference literature	see JEP122 [5.3.1 – 5.3.18] TBD (GL)
Test parameters & failure criteria	<ul> <li>V<sub>T</sub> to be measured from a single-point V<sub>T</sub>. (Note: In doing so, changes in other parameters that impact Vt may not be taken into account.)</li> <li>A DUT is considered to fail when the threshold voltage changes by more than the specified failure criterion after NBTI stress.</li> <li>The failure criterion is a user-specified shift in V<sub>TLIN</sub> (or V V<sub>T</sub> Sat</li> </ul>
Test structures	<ul> <li>MOSFET: nominal design length, for each allowed gate oxide thickness. See JESD28 &amp; JESD60 for requirements.</li> <li>DUT testable at last metal and passivation should be stressed</li> </ul>
Vehicle	Wafer Level or Packaged Level
Method	<ul> <li>DC Gate Bias Stress in "cold carrier" regime (Typically  V<sub>DDMAX</sub>   &lt;  V<sub>GS</sub>   &lt; (1.5) x  V<sub>DDmax</sub>  with Vsb= 0V and Vdb=0V or in the linear mode (for fast switching methodology)</li> <li>At BTI stress conditions avoid "hot carrier" injection from substrate typical of TDDB stressing conditions.</li> <li>Test to be done at the maximum operating channel temperature (e.g., 125 °C), held to an accuracy of ± 2 °C for the duration of stress test. A higher stress temperature may be used if the activation energy is measured.</li> <li><u>Readouts (at stress temperature)</u>: Multiple Stress Cycle with readouts on a logarithmic time scale [at least 2 points per decade recommended] (a time accuracy of ± 1%.) Interruption of the BTI stress for intermediate characterization must be kept to a minimum. The time between the end of BTI stress and the beginning of the characterization measurement must be controlled and the time must be recorded (to take recovery into account).</li> </ul>
Typical model	refer to JESD90 for potential values for the reliability models as they can vary depending on different technologies. Model expression and values listed below are for illustration only. NBTI: $\Delta V_T = V_T(t) - V_T(0) = A \times f(Wdes,Ldes) \times  V_{gs} ^{\alpha} \times exp(-\Delta H/kT) \times t^P$ PBTI: $\Delta V_T = V_T(t) - V_T(0) = A \times f(Wdes,Ldes) \times exp(\beta^*V_{gs}) \times exp(-\Delta H/kT) \times t^P$ where: $V_T(0)$ is the $V_T$ before stress, f(Wdes,Ldes) is an experimentally verified relation for the technology under investigation, Time Dependence typically follows a power law: $\Delta V_T \sim t^P$ , (p $\approx$ 0.16-0.25 as guideline. Power law dependence ( $ V_{gs} ^{\alpha}$ ) with $\alpha$ around 3 – 4. Exponential field dependence with $\beta \sim$ 5-6. Temperature dependence: Arrhenius with observed delta H around 0.05 to 0.2 eV.
Sample size	5 devices per wafer per bias condition x 3 lots.
Merit number	V <sub>T</sub> Shift
Other data required	Lot identification, Wafer Number, Gate oxide thickness, Channel length, BEOL and FEOL Processes, design channel lengths and widths used for NBTI stressing.

# 10.3.1 Bias temperature instability stress test requirements

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#### 10.3.2 Report requirements

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1. Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.
- 2. Relevant process features: device isolation scheme (LOCOS, STI), oxide thickness, minimum drawn device lengths, minimum L<sub>EFF</sub>.
- 3. Details on the  $V_{T \text{ Lin}}$  methodology
  - 3.1 Details on measurement method and delay time.
- 4. Assumed  $V_{T Lin}$  target
- 5. Brief description of test structures, test conditions and model used.
- 6. Sample size for each stress condition.
- 7. Extracted parameters for BTS degradation model(s), where applicable.

#### 11 Technology qualification vehicle (TQV) tests

An appropriate technology qualification vehicle - SRAM or circuit of equivalent complexity is used to get a first look at the expected long-term failure rate of the process. Recommended SRAM sizes appear below and are based on SRAMs populated with a bit design and layout density expected to be typical at the respective lithographic node. For other qualification vehicles (e.g., ASIC), a number of circuits providing an equivalent density should be used.

Lithographic Node (nm)	SRAM size (Mb)
180	2
150	4
130	8
90	16
65	32
45/40	64
32/28	128
22/20	256
15	512

NOTE 1 An SRAM is an excellent vehicle where the primary concern is defect density. However, it has far too uniform a topology to be a good overall qualification vehicle in cases where divergent topologies may give rise to specific reliability concerns. Other vehicles may need to be used to provide a more thorough evaluation.

NOTE 2 Evaluations driven by defect density require a larger number of samples where the vehicle size is reduced. For example, a 50% reduction in SRAM size would drive a 2x increase in the number of samples needed for a comparable measurement on a per circuit basis.

#### 11.1 Long term life test

The usefulness of a life test is dependent on an assessment of the dominant failure modes, as determined from a prior thorough analysis of failure modes (FMEA). See JEP131.

#### 11.2 Detailed yield results

Reference procedure	None
Test parameters	Full Functional Test and IDDQ and Leakage Tests
Test structures	Appropriate technology qualification vehicle
Vehicle	Wafer Probe
Method	NA
Model to be used	Foundry Will specify Yield Model
Sample size	12 wafers from each of 6 lots
Defect density	Defects per square centimeter
Other data required	<ol> <li>Area of SRAM or other qualification vehicle</li> <li># of Critical Layers Used</li> <li>Site location information relative to edge exclusion zone</li> </ol>

#### 11.3 Report requirements

These guidelines should not replace any existing agreements between customers and suppliers regarding specific information for reporting purposes.

- 1. Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.
- 2. Brief description of technology qualification vehicle: chip area, GOX area, circuit type (e.g., SRAM, ASIC), etc.
- 3. Test methodology & Test coverage, test speed (frequency), I<sub>DDQ</sub> limits.
- 4. Number of devices tested, devices passed and percent yield for each wafer tested.
- 5. Defect density per square cm.

#### 12 Process control monitor (PCM) characterization

#### 12.1 PCM data

- The process control monitor (PCM) refers to the suite of test structures usually placed in the scribeline (alternatively named kerf, street or test key) separating product die on the wafer.
- The parameter given in this section should be viewed as a suggested minimum set of E-test parameters. The foundry may choose a different set of parameters and/or tests to address specific yield, performance and reliability issues. The optimum set of parameters will depend on the specific customer product requirements.
- This list is intended for correlation of qualification data to reliability models, circuit yield and performance improvement.
- PCM parameters are to be provided for all agreed number of wafers and number of lots. As a
  minimum, these should include wafers used in qualification reliability testing (EM, SM, HCI, GOI, etc.)
- Additional parameters may be included to meet specific customer needs or requirements.
- It is highly recommended that the same parameters (or an agreed subset) be reported for subsequent prototype and production material, as part of a standard reporting schedule.
- Test procedures are referenced where available. In all cases, the foundry should provide their specifications covering the test conditions and algorithms used, as well as the sampling plan.
- Individual site data may be provided. Histograms, probability plots and trend charts are highly
  desirable. As a minimum, mean, standard deviation, minimums and maximums should be provided
  for each lot. Where possible, PCM data should quantify any dependence on site location relative to
  the wafer exclusion zone.
- Reference procedures: JEDEC JEP132, and ASTM F616-86, 617-86 & 1096-87.

#### 12.1.1 Requirements for logic circuits

- 1. MOSFET related parameters for both N and P channel MOSFETS
  - Long and wide MOSFET (NMOS and PMOS):
    - Linear threshold voltage: Single point method at a fixed current recommended. Alternate method(s) should be documented.
    - Optional: Gated diode breakdown with floating source.
    - Optional: Gamma Measured at [V<sub>BS</sub>] between 0 (V<sub>DD</sub>/2)K' (beta) (K<sub>P</sub>) u C<sub>OX</sub> B<sub>VDSF</sub>.
  - Shortest channel MOSFET (Minimum L NMOS and PMOS):
    - Linear threshold voltage (@ V<sub>DS</sub> = 0.1 V) and saturation threshold voltage (@V<sub>DS</sub> = V<sub>DDMAX</sub>). Single point method at a fixed current recommended. Alternate method(s) should be documented. <u>Optional</u>: Repeat at Vsub = -1.0 V for NFET and Vnw = +1.0 V for PFET.
    - Maximum substrate (or well) current I<sub>SUB</sub>: Measure at [V<sub>DS</sub>] = Max. V<sub>CC</sub> and [V<sub>GS</sub>] that gives
      maximum substrate current.
    - Drain current I<sub>DSAT</sub>: Measured at [V<sub>DS</sub>] = [V<sub>GS</sub>]=[V<sub>DDNOM</sub>], [V<sub>BS</sub>]=0. <u>Optional</u>: Repeat at [V<sub>DS</sub>] = [V<sub>DDMAX</sub>].
    - Drain OFF current I<sub>DOFF</sub>: Measured at [V<sub>DS</sub>] = V<sub>DDNOM</sub>], and V<sub>GS</sub> = V<sub>BS</sub> = 0. <u>Optional</u>: Repeat at [V<sub>DS</sub>] = [V<sub>DDMAX</sub>].
    - $B_{VDSS}$  transistor breakdown  $[V_{GS}] = [V_S] = [V_{BS}] = 0$ , @1uA  $I_{DSS}$  ( $I_{D0}$ ) ( $I_{OFF}$ )
    - Delta L Channel length reduction (specify method)
    - Delta W Channel width reduction (specify method)
    - RS, RD Series resistances (from Long and Short transistors)

### 12.1.1 Requirements for logic circuits (cont'd)

- 2. Poly and metal 1 field V<sub>T</sub> with minimum isolation spacing (NMOS and PMOS)
  - Isolation Test (e.g., field threshold voltage V<sub>TF</sub>, or punch-through test). Specify Method.
- 3. Sheet resistances
  - Gate (poly): N+ and P+, where applicable
  - Well (N and/or P)
  - N+ diffusion
  - P+ diffusion
  - Metal (for all metal layers)
- 4. Contact resistance (Single contact and contact strings)
  - Gate (poly) Contact resistance
  - Well Contact resistance
  - N+ Contact resistance
  - P+ Contact resistance
  - Via (for all available via types)
  - N+ leakage measurements (from contact strings)
  - P+ leakage measurements (from contact strings)
- 5. Capacitances
  - Area capacitances: N+ and P+ diffusions
  - Overlap capacitances: NMOS & PMOS
- 6. Gate oxide integrity & gate oxide thickness
  - Gate oxide breakdown from V-RAMP test
  - Leakage at V<sub>DDMAX</sub> (NMOS/PMOS area/field/gate intensive capacitors, thin/thick oxides)
  - Gate oxide thickness (from C-V, F-N or charge pumping): To be determined for NMOS and PMOS capacitors in both accumulation and inversion. For thinner oxides (especially below ~ 5nm), QM effects and poly depletion should be taken into account. (See e.g., E. Wu et al, Proc. IRPS 1997, p. 184 and N. Yang et al, IEEE Trans. ED 46, no. 7, 1999, p. 1464).
  - Optional gate oxide parameters: flat-band voltage, interface states density (via C-V or charge pumping).
- Metal integrity
  - Non-planar technologies: Isolation & Continuity Metal1/Metal2/Metal3 over topologies for filament (also known as short, ribbon, stringer).
- Hot carriers
  - I<sub>GATE</sub>, I<sub>SUB</sub> and I<sub>D</sub> at V<sub>DDMAX</sub> (1.1\*V<sub>DD</sub>) and V<sub>GS</sub> = V<sub>DDMAX</sub> [NMOS & PMOS L<sub>MIN</sub> FET]
  - I<sub>GATE</sub>, I<sub>SUB</sub> and I<sub>D</sub> at V<sub>DDMAX</sub> (1.1\*V<sub>DD</sub>) V<sub>GS</sub> = V<sub>GS</sub> @ worst-case degradation condition [NMOS & PMOS L<sub>MIN</sub> FET]
  - Short HCI stress on NMOS and PMOS L<sub>MIN</sub> FETs under the following conditions:
    - NFET: Maximum substrate current
    - PFET: Maximum well current & V<sub>G</sub>=V<sub>D</sub> condition
  - Optional: Charge pumping interface state parameters.

# 12.1.1 Requirements for logic circuits (cont'd)

- Ionic contamination
  - BTS: Delta V<sub>T</sub> & I<sub>OFF</sub>.
- NBTI
  - Short high temperature or field stress.
- P2ID
  - Short Fowler-Nordhein stress on NMOS/PMOS FETs connected to stacked antennas including all metals and via levels to obtain  $I_{LG}$ ,  $V_T$  before stress,  $\Delta V_T$  and  $\Delta I_{DSAT}$  of cumulative distributions.

#### 12.1.2 For mixed signal/analog circuits add the following parameters

- 1. MOSFET related parameters long and wide MOSFET (e.g., 50/50) (NMOS and PMOS)
  - Gamma measured at [VBS] between 0-0.5, and VDDMAX/2 VDDMAX.
- 2. Mid channel (2X or 5X of minimum drawn channel length) (NMOS and PMOS)
  - Output conductance [GDS]. Specify range.
  - Transconductance [GMMAX] or [Peak GM]
  - Asymmetry 180 degree rotated (or source and drain reversed) MOS transistor measurement (Ids % diff.)
- 3. Interlayer capacitors (POP, MIM, etc.)
  - T<sub>OX</sub> Interlayer dielectric thickness
  - Maximum voltage ratings
  - Leakage characteristics
- 4. Resistors (Implant or thin film resistors such as poly)
  - Contact resistance
  - Sheet resistances (If different than other measured sheet resistances)
  - Width reduction Calculated from resistance measurements on two resistors with different widths
  - Resistor values
  - Resistances for specific widths already measured for width calculations
  - Maximum current ratings
  - Self-heating and aging effects
- 5. BIPOLAR transistor parameters
  - For NPN, Lateral PNP, Substrate PNP, Isolated vertical PNP whenever applicable
  - Current gain [HFE] at defined IC, VCE. Two measurements: one at low IC and a second one at HFEMAX point.
  - Saturation current [IS]
  - Base-Emitter Voltage [VBE] at defined IC, VCE.
  - Early voltage [VEARLY] extracted from two defined VCE for defined IB
  - Collector-Emitter breakdown voltage [BVCEO] at defined IC
  - Collector-Base breakdown voltage [BVCBO] at defined IC
  - Collector-Emitter breakdown [BVCESC] with base-emitter shorted at defined IC.
  - It is desirable to obtain this data for two or more geometries of a particular transistor type (e.g., NPN1x, NPN10x, etc.).

#### 12.1.1 Requirements for logic circuits (cont'd)

- 6. Dynamic Supply Effects
  - MOS and bipolar transistors used in RF and mixed signal blocks are often stressed with signal voltages that dynamically exceed VCC, e.g., with inductive loads (tank circuits, etc.).For such applications, it is appropriate to document the following characteristics:
  - Aging characteristics due to e.g., hot carrier and NBTI degradation
  - Breakdown characteristics (gate oxide, emitter and collector junctions, etc.)

#### 13 Construction analysis

#### 13.1 Construction analysis

Construction analysis is an essential tool to aid in evaluating process limitations and interpreting yield and reliability data. Construction analysis data provided by the foundry as part of the qualification package allows the customer to better understand the dependencies of their product on specific design rules. This may not substitute for detailed construction analysis done by the customer on the customer's own product.

Constructional analysis shall be performed on wafer or die to check the quality features. Any anomaly which has been encountered during the constructional analysis shall be documented and communicated to the appropriate engineering group for corrective action. Additional work shall be supplemented as required by the process technology.

The constructional analysis results (visual or measurements) shall be documented in detail to demonstrate process attributes distribution. All visual documentation (Optical or SEM photos) shall display best case, typical, and worst case features. The parametric measurements shall record low, average, high and sigma values.

Reference procedure	None
Test parameters	A DUT is considered to fail if the design rule and physical measurement do not match in size shape or function.
Test structures	<ul> <li>a) Topographical SEM photos of minimum Metal, poly</li> <li>b) Cross sectional SEM photos of all critical levels including each metal level, via, contact, poly, oxides and silicon isolation scheme.</li> </ul>
Vehicle	Fully processed baseline wafers.
Method	a) Optical photographs for wide angle views and orientation location
	<ul><li>c) TEM of gate oxide and flash oxides.</li></ul>
Model to be used	
Sample size	Three lots with a minimum one die.
Merit number	The variation in film thickness and/or line-width should be consistent with design manual assumptions.
Other data required	Line width, thickness, composition of metal lines, via dimensions and alignment to metal lines.

#### 13.1.1 Construction analysis requirements

#### 13.1.2 Reporting requirements

1. Fab name and location; process name, lot #, wafer # and date code, and certification that material tested represents the current process being qualified.

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- 2. Back end scheme: thickness, composition for each layer, via type (Tungsten, etc.), inter-level dielectric.
- 3. Relevant design rules: minimum widths, minimum spaces, contact and via sizes.

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#### Annex A (informative) Differences between revisions

#### A.1 Differences between JEP001-2A to JEP001A

The following list briefly describes most of the changes made to entries that appear in this publication, JEP001-2A, compared to its predecessor, JEP001A (February 2014).

# Clause Description of Change

All

JEP001A Split into three parts: JEP001-1A Backend of Line, JEP001-2A, FEOL End Transistor Level and JEP001-3A Product level.

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The referenced clause number has proven to be:	A.V.
Other	
2. Recommendations for correction:	
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