Abstract
(from international publication)

The present invention relates to a method for effective spark detection during a process for treating workpieces with a vacuum treatment installation. For this purpose, in the case of a bias voltage applied to the workpieces, the discrepancy between the current flowing through the workpieces and a mean value is measured and, in the event of a threshold value being exceeded by this discrepancy, the process is stopped. According to the invention, the threshold value is made dependent on the magnitude of the bias voltage.