COUPLING SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

In conventional systems for transferring wafers and the like, a container and a preliminary chamber have been connected to each other by means of a complicated mechanism, since the subjects to be transferred have been transferred to an apparatus area by previously providing the apparatus with the preliminary chamber, then, transferring the subject to the apparatus area from the container via the preliminary chamber. Disclosed is a connecting system which is composed of: a transfer container (7) configured of a transfer container main body (11) and a transfer container door (12); and an apparatus (8) having an apparatus main body (13) and an apparatus door (14). The transfer container has a seal structure, which can hermetically seal the transfer container by closely attaching the transfer container main body and the transfer container door to each other, the apparatus has a seal structure which can hermetically seal the apparatus by closely attaching the apparatus main body and the apparatus door to each other, furthermore, the transfer container and the apparatus have a seal structure, which performs hermetically sealing, said structure being formed by having the transfer container and the apparatus closely attached to each other, and the transfer container and the apparatus form a connecting chamber only when the transfer container and the apparatus are closely attached to each other, said connecting chamber being hermetically sealed by means of the seal structure. The connecting system is provided with a means for cleaning the inside of the connecting chamber, and has a structure wherein the transfer container door is separated from the transfer container and is taken into the apparatus.

[Fig 2]