

ABSTRACT

APPARATUS AND METHOD TO PREVENT OXIDATION OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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The invention provides an apparatus and a method for preventing oxidation of an electronic device, such as a semiconductor leadframe, when it is heated. The apparatus comprises an area in which said device is to be heated and inlet
10 means adapted to supply a relatively inert gas to the said area. In particular, the apparatus includes a porous distribution element through which the inert gas is passed from the inlet means to said area, whereby to protect the electronic device in the area from oxidation.

15 (Fig. 4)