HEALTH EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS OF OSHA

All Members of the Committee are aware of the medical examination requirements in the OSHA regulations. All have taken steps to comply with these requirements. The basics of the OSHA requirements are a preplacement examination, an annual examination and a requirement as regards termination of employment. These requirements are for workers who are "exposed to airborne concentration of asbestos fibers." Note that there are no specific limits which tell whether an office employee who must make occasional trips into the factory area is exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers. The treatment of this is possibly best carried out by meeting the spirit of the regulations in including those employees in the examinations who are exposed to concentrations in excess of 1 fiber/cc (as used by one member).

The interesting service by International Compumetics was discussed. The International Compumetics Corporation, located in Princeton, New Jersey, proposes a series of mobile medical tests which would include the full examination requirement, computerized medical records, at a price that appeared interesting to the Members. They will also provide a $500,000 "Errors and Omissions" insurance policy to the company for their program. Two of the Committee Members had investigated International Compumetics and while they were not long on experience as regards medical background, they apparently did have some computer capabilities. Also, it was felt that they may have the talent to accomplish what they propose to do. One Member planned to use the ICM services in one of their factories. Another Member considered using their services in a factory which later was scheduled for closing.

Another Committee Member suggested that while the International Compumetics proposals are interesting that it might be possible to do what they have done even more reasonably. They work with their local Tuberculosis Society in scheduling examinations in the mobile unit. The Tuberculosis Society does the X-Ray and pulmonary function examinations. The company doctor, in the meanwhile, does the balance of the medical examination. Where local tuberculosis units wish to cooperate, this might be advantageous to both the manufacturer and the worker. In a review of the proposal by International Compumetics Corporation it is indicated that they will do everything that is required by the OSHA regulations.

The Institute Office will let the Membership know of the availability of the services of International Compumetics Corporation. We will not make a specific recommendation. The Chairman also mentioned that there was a New York group that had proposed some similar services and that we should also let the Membership know about them.

One Member who has already planned to use the International Compumetics Corporation proposal will let us know his evaluation of them after they have finished their tests. In direct answer to the question from Mr. Iverson, President of Internation Compumetics Corporation, we will not give them our mailing list. Rather, we will advise our Members of their services.

ASBESTOS BAG OPENING MACHINERY

The Institute had sent out to the Membership information on manufacturers of specialized bag opening machinery. The problem here is to keep the asbestos fiber concentrations minimized during bag opening and to properly dispose of any asbestos dust still left in the bags. The list of those manufacturing bag