MATERIALS AND METHODS

STUDY POPULATION

The study population for this project consisted of members of the following union groups who routinely performed brake maintenance repair work:

1. Local 259 of the United Automobile Workers (UAW) whose members were employed in commercial garages in New York, New Jersey and Connnecticut. Also included were all pensioners maintaining vested rights in a program administered by the Local.

2. Local 246 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) employed in New York City municipal garages.

The unexposed control population for the above brake workers consisted of:

1. Local 259 members and pensioners employed currently or previously in parts warehouses (New York City) and amphibious vehicle construction in Stamford, Connecticut and Schenectady, New York.

2. District Council 37 (DC 37), Municipal State and Federal Employees Union members employed in New York City as motor vehicle operators or traffic device repairmen.

The above groups were selected prior to the beginning of the project as the study and control groups for determining the effects of possible asbestos exposure on workers engaged in brake maintenance and repair work. The control groups were chosen because of membership in the same union and similar employment circumstances but without brake maintenance work. As the study progressed it was found that many of the control population had had exposure to asbestos in other circumstances such as shipyard work, and that fewer DC 37 members were participating in the examination than was initially expected. Thus, in consultation