

ASSOCIATION PIERRES NATURELLES NOUVELLE- AQUITAINE



GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

PIERRE DE VIANNE

SPECIFICATIONS

VERSION 1 - OCTOBER 2023

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	4
1. The Pierre de Vianne.....	4
2. The players at Pierre de Vianne.....	4
3. The geographical indication project “Pierre de Vianne”	4
I. Name of the geographical indication.....	5
II. Product concerned.....	5
A. Description of product(s).....	5
B. Covered products.....	6
III. Demarcation of the geographical area or associated specific place.....	6
IV. The link between product and territory.....	11
A. Geological description.....	11
1. Geological origins of the deposit – The Baise valley.....	11
2. Geological approach to Pierre de Vianne.....	13
B. Historical use and existence of a professional community around the Pierre de Vianne.....	14
C. The causal link between Pierrede Vianne and the geographical area of the GI.....	23
V. Description of the process of development, production and processing.....	24
VI. The identity of the defence and management organisation.....	30
VII. The terms and periodicity of checks.....	30
A. References to the inspection body.....	31
1. Identification, initial assessment and certification of operators.....	31
2. Management of changes affecting certification.....	32
3. Terms for the supervision of certified operators.....	32
B. External inspection frequencies for certified operators.....	33
C. Assessment methods and procedures for certified operators: detailed inspection plan tables (self-inspection and external inspection).....	35
VIII. Reporting or record-keeping requirements that operators must meet in order to allow verification of compliance with the specifications.....	44
A. Summary diagram of traceability and documents relating to the control of the Pierre de Vianne GI.....	44
B. List of administrative authorisations which any operator seeking the GI must hold.....	45
IX. Procedures for serving formal notice and excluding operators in the event of non- compliance with the specifications.....	46
A. General elements.....	46
B. Scoring for external breaches.....	46
C. Management of breaches.....	49
D. Reduction, termination, suspension or withdrawal of operators’ certification.....	50

X. Provisional funding of the defence and management organisation.....	51
XI. Specific labelling requirements.....	51
XII. ODG inspection.....	51
A. Inspection procedure.....	51
B. Frequency of inspections.....	52
XII. Annexes.....	52

INTRODUCTION

1. The Pierre de Vianne

Vianne is a town in the Lot-et-Garonne department. The town's history has always been linked to stone quarrying and glass-making. It was indeed this local stone that was used to build the town's fortifications. Later, it was used to build the Agen Canal Bridge over the Garonne, thanks to its reputation as a hard stone, which has since been well earned. The quarries were located both on the right and left banks of the Baïse. To date, there is only one quarry still open and in operation.

2. The players at Pierre de Vianne

- The holder of the Geographical Indication project: **Association Pierres Naturelles Nouvelle-Aquitaine – Pierre de Vianne Section**
- Stone quarrying and processing activities concern one company in the defined geographical area. It is an SME with 7 employees.
- Overall turnover: approximately EUR 600,000 (2022 figures)
- Share in terms of exports: 100 % national market
- Strengths/Weaknesses:

Strengths	Weaknesses
Reputation	No clear identification of the origin of the stones
Intrinsic qualities of the stone	No effective protection
Origin	Usurpations possible
Link with local populations and culture	Risk of consumer deception

3. The geographical indication project “Pierre de Vianne”

The geographical indication project is backed by local players in the Pierre de Vianne sector, grouped together within the Association Pierres Naturelles Nouvelle-Aquitaine. The GI request is linked to the need to assure customers of the veracity of the quality of the product and its geographical origin.

Therefore, the strategy of origin through the geographical indication is of interest in order to guarantee and authenticate the Pierre de Vianne:

- ➔ By providing legitimate operators a legal arsenal to protect them from deception and counterfeiting;
- ➔ By consecrating this national heritage of the limestone quarrying and processing tradition in the Vianne basin;
- ➔ By mentioning the origin of the stone and strengthening its reputation;
- ➔ By highlighting the quality and specificities of these products;
- ➔ By giving a guarantee of authenticity to customers and consumers;

- ➔ By structuring the sector around common issues;
- ➔ By contributing to the tourist economy of the territory.

I. Name of the geographical indication

The protected geographical indication defined by these specifications is:

Pierre de Vianne

II. Product concerned

A. Description of product(s)

Scientific definition:

The Pierre de Vianne is a lacustrine limestone, 5 to 10 m thick. It corresponds to the Nérac limestone geological formation, deposited about 28 million years ago at the limit of the Rupelian and Chattian stages (Oligocene).

The most widespread facies of this limestone is relatively hard, whitish to ochre-coloured, or even beige-pink, with finely crystallised micritic paste, in massive, undulatingly stratified beds, resulting from the lithification of carbonate mud deposited at the bottom of a lake. This limestone is more or less vacuolar, with abundant translucent calcite crystals filling millimetric perforations formed during the degassing of the mud. Intraformational levels with micro-brecciated facies, other chalky levels or even a few channery layers may exist locally. A fauna of small freshwater gastropods populated the shores of this ancient lake.

Definition NF B 10-601: pinkish-beige sublithographic limestone with locally recrystallised oolites¹ and fossils.

The main features of the Pierre de Vianne are as follows:

- Type of stone: hard limestone
- Sedimentary rock
- Typology: fine grain limestone/holes
- Appearance: vacuoles of varying size/presence of oolites and fossils
- Colour: from beige to ochre, sometimes with slight pinkish tones
- Compressive strength: between 160 and 170 Mpa
- Apparent density from 2,500 kg/m³
- Porosity: between 2 and 4 %

¹ Larousse definition: Small, spherical concretion of the size of a fish egg (0.5 to 2 mm), formed of concentric layers precipitating around a nucleus. (Generally calcareous, oolites can also be ferruginous, as in Lorraine iron ore).

- Bending: between 12 and 15 MPa
- Abrasion (according to standard NF EN 14157): between 15 and 25 mm
- Slipperiness: between 60 and 70
- Frost resistance: between 140 and 150 cycles

Quality of the deposit: homogeneous bed, large blocks, suitable for solid stone construction

Pierre de Vianne, due to its hardness and resistance, is ideal for the construction of bridge substructures and other similar structures.

b) Covered products

The name “Pierre de Vianne” covers the following products:

- Raw products: blocks, rockfills
- Semi-finished products: slabs
- Finished products for funerary, urban planning, building and decoration
- Products for massive constructions and historic monuments.

These products created by removal of material (100 % Pierre de Vianne), as opposed to aggregates and composite products: “reconstituted stone”, concrete and other cast materials.

III. Demarcation of the geographical area or associated specific place

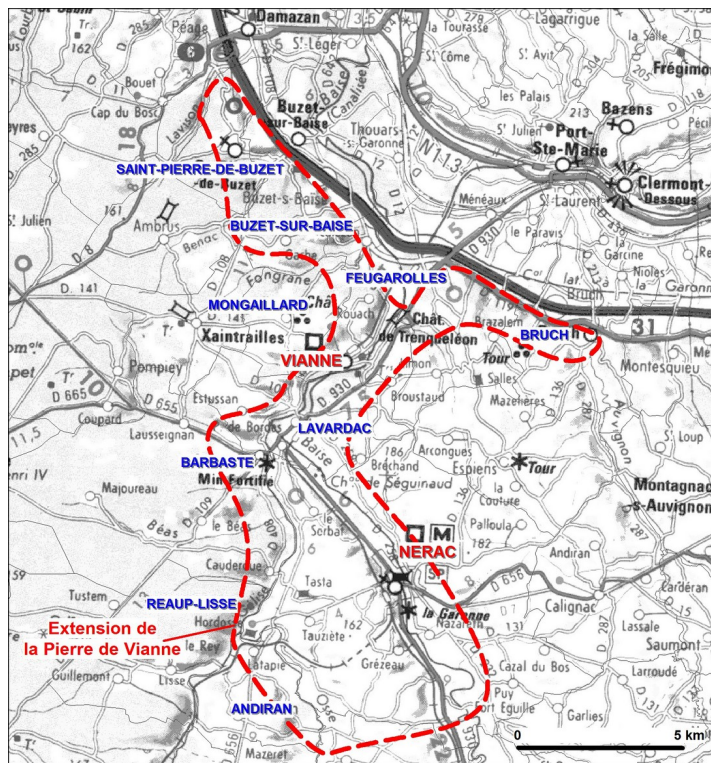
The geographical area of the “Pierre de Vianne” GI includes the quarrying, processing and packaging of the products covered by the GI.

The geographical area of quarrying covers the communes of Vianne, Lavardac, Nérac, Barbaste, Feugarolles, St-Pierre de Buzet, Buzet sur Baïse, Mongaillard, Bruch, Réaup-Lisse and Andiran.

The geographical area of processing industry includes the Lot-et-Garonne department (47), Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

QUARRYING AREA MAP

List of quarrying communes: This limestone level outcrops mainly in the communes of Vianne, Lavardac, Nérac, Barbaste, and more discreetly in Feugarolles, St-Pierre de Buzet, Buzet sur Baïse, Mongaillard, Bruch, Réaup-Lisse and Andiran.



Extension de la Pierre de Vianne

Extension of Pierre de Vianne

Source: Jean-Pierre Platel, 2022

The processing area covers the Lot-et-Garonne department in its entirety.

Map of the GI processing area



Mercator

Mercator

Source: d-maps.com

It covers the following communes:

Agen	Castelculier	Francescas
Agmé	Casteljaloux	Fréchou
Agnac	Castella	Frégimont
Aiguillon	Castelmoron-sur-Lot	Frespech
Allemans-du-Dropt	Castelnau-sur-Gupie	Fumel
Allez-et-Cazeneuve	Castelnau-de-	Galapian
Allons	Gratecambe	Gaujac
Ambrus	Castillonès	Gavaudun
Andiran	Caubeyres	Gontaud-de-Nogaret
Antagnac	Caubon-Saint-Sauveur	Granges-sur-Lot
Anthé	Caudecoste	Grateloup-Saint-
Anzex	Caumont-sur-Garonne	Gayrand
Argenton	Cauzac	Grayssas
Armillac	Cavarc	Grézet-Cavagnan
Astaffort	Cazideroque	Guérin
Aubiac	Clairac	Hautefage-la-Tour
Auradou	Clermont-Dessous	Hautesvignes
Auriac-sur-Dropt	Clermont-Soubiran	Houeillès
Bajamont	Cocumont	Jusix
Baleyssagues	Colayrac-Saint-Cirq	La Croix-Blanche
Barbaste	Condezaygues	La Réunion
Bazens	Coulx	La Sauvetat-de-Savères
Beaugas	Courbiac	La Sauvetat-du-Dropt
Beaupuy	Cours	La Sauvetat-sur-Lède
Beauville	Couthures-sur-Garonne	Labastide-Castel-
Beauziac	Cuq	Amouroux
Bias	Cuzorn	Labretonie
Birac-sur-Trec	Damazan	Lacapelle-Biron
Blanquefort-sur-	Dausse	Lacaussade
Briolance	Déviac	Lacépède
Blaymont	Dolmayrac	Lachapelle
Boé	Dondas	Lafitte-sur-Lot
Bon-Encontre	Doudrac	Lafox
Boudy-de-Beauregard	Douzains	Lagarrigue
Bouglon	Durance	Lagruère
Bourgougnague	Duras	Lagupie
Bourlens	Engayrac	Lalandusse
Bournel	Escassefort	Lamontjoie
Bourran	Esclottes	Lannes
Boussès	Espies	Laparade
Brax	Estillac	Laperche
Bruch	Fals	Laplume
Brugnac	Fargues-sur-Ourbise	Laroque-Timbaut
Buzet-sur-Baïse	Fauguerolles	Lasserre
Cahuzac	Fauillet	Laugnac
Calignac	Ferrensac	Laussou
Calonges	Feugarolles	Lauzun
Cambes	Fieux	Lavardac
Cancon	Fongrave	Lavergne
Casseneuil	Foulayronnes	Layrac
Cassignas	Fourques-sur-Garonne	Le Mas-d'Agenais

Le Passage	Pailloles	Saint-Laurent
Le Temple-sur-Lot	Pardaillan	Saint-Léger
Lédat	Parranquet	Saint-Léon
Lévignac-de-Guyenne	Paulhiac	Saint-Martin-Curton
Leyritz-Moncassin	Penne-d'Agenais	Saint-Martin-de-
Longueville	Peyrière	Beauville
Loubès-Bernac	Pindères	Saint-Martin-de-
Lougratte	Pinel-Hauterive	Villeréal
Lusignan-Petit	Pompiéy	Saint-Martin-Petit
Madaillan	Pompogne	Saint-Maurice-de-
Marcellus	Pont-du-Casse	Lestapel
Marmande	Port-Sainte-Marie	Saint-Maurin
Marmont-Pachas	Poudenas	Saint-Nicolas-de-la-
Masquières	Poussignac	Balermé
Massels	Prayssas	Saint-Pardoux-du-Breuil
Massoulès	Puch-d'Agenais	Saint-Pardoux-Isaac
Mauvezin-sur-Gupie	Pujols	Saint-Pastour
Mazières-Naresse	Puymiclan	Saint-Pé-Saint-Simon
Meilhan-sur-Garonne	Puymirol	Saint-Pierre-de-Buzet
Mézin	Puysserampion	Saint-Pierre-de-Clairac
Miramont-de-Guyenne	Rayet	Saint-Pierre-sur-Dropt
Moirax	Razimet	Saint-Quentin-du-Dropt
Monbahus	Réaup-Lisse	Saint-Robert
Monbalen	Rives	Saint-Romain-le-Noble
Moncaut	Romestaing	Saint-Salvy
Monclar	Roquefort	Saint-Sardos
Moncrabeau	Roumagne	Saint-Sauveur-de-
Monflanquin	Ruffiac	Meilhan
Monheurt	Saint-Antoine-de-	Saint-Sernin
Monségur	Ficalba	Saint-Sixte
Monsempron-Libos	Saint-Astier	Saint-Sylvestre-sur-Lot
Montagnac-sur-	Saint-Aubin	Saint-Urcisse
Auvignon	Saint-Avit	Saint-Vincent-de-
Montagnac-sur-Lède	Saint-Barthélemy-	Lamontjoie
Montastruc	d'Agenais	Saint-Vite
Montauriol	Saint-Caprais-de-Lerm	Sainte-Bazeille
Montaut	Saint-Colomb-de-	Sainte-Colombe-de-
Montayral	Lauzun	Duras
Montesquieu	Saint-Étienne-de-	Sainte-Colombe-de-
Monteton	Fougères	Villeneuve
Montgaillard-en-Albret	Saint-Étienne-de-	Sainte-Colombe-en-
Montignac-de-Lauzun	Villeréal	Bruilhois
Montignac-Toupinerie	Saint-Eutrope-de-Born	Sainte-Gemme-
Montpezat	Saint-Front-sur-	Martaillac
Montpouillan	Lémance	Sainte-Livrade-sur-Lot
Monviel	Saint-Georges	Sainte-Marthe
Moulinet	Saint-Géraud	Sainte-Maure-de-
Moustier	Saint-Hilaire-de-	Peyriac
Nérac	Lusignan	Salles
Nicole	Saint-Jean-de-Duras	Samazan
Nomdieu	Saint-Jean-de-Thurac	Sauméjan

Saumont	Sos	Trentels
Sauvagnas	Soumensac	Varès
Sauveterre-la-Lémance	Taillebourg	Verteuil-d'Agenais
Sauveterre-Saint-Denis	Tayrac	Vianne
Savignac-de-Duras	Thézac	Villebramar
Savignac-sur-Leyze	Thouars-sur-Garonne	Villefranche-du-
Ségallas	Tombeboeuf	Queyran
Sembas	Tonneins	Villeneuve-de-Duras
Sénestis	Tourliac	Villeneuve-sur-Lot
Sérignac-Péboudou	Tournon-d'Agenais	Villéréal
Sérignac-sur-Garonne	Tourtrès	Villeton
Seyches	Trémons	Virazeil
Xaintrailles		

IV. The link between product and territory

A. Geological description²

1. Geological origins of the deposit – The Baïse valley

Since the time of the geological formation known as “AQUITANIA” (the land of the Waters), more than 20 million years ago when the “ponant” (the ocean) invaded this immense region, time did its work and vast plateaus of molasses and limestone were formed.

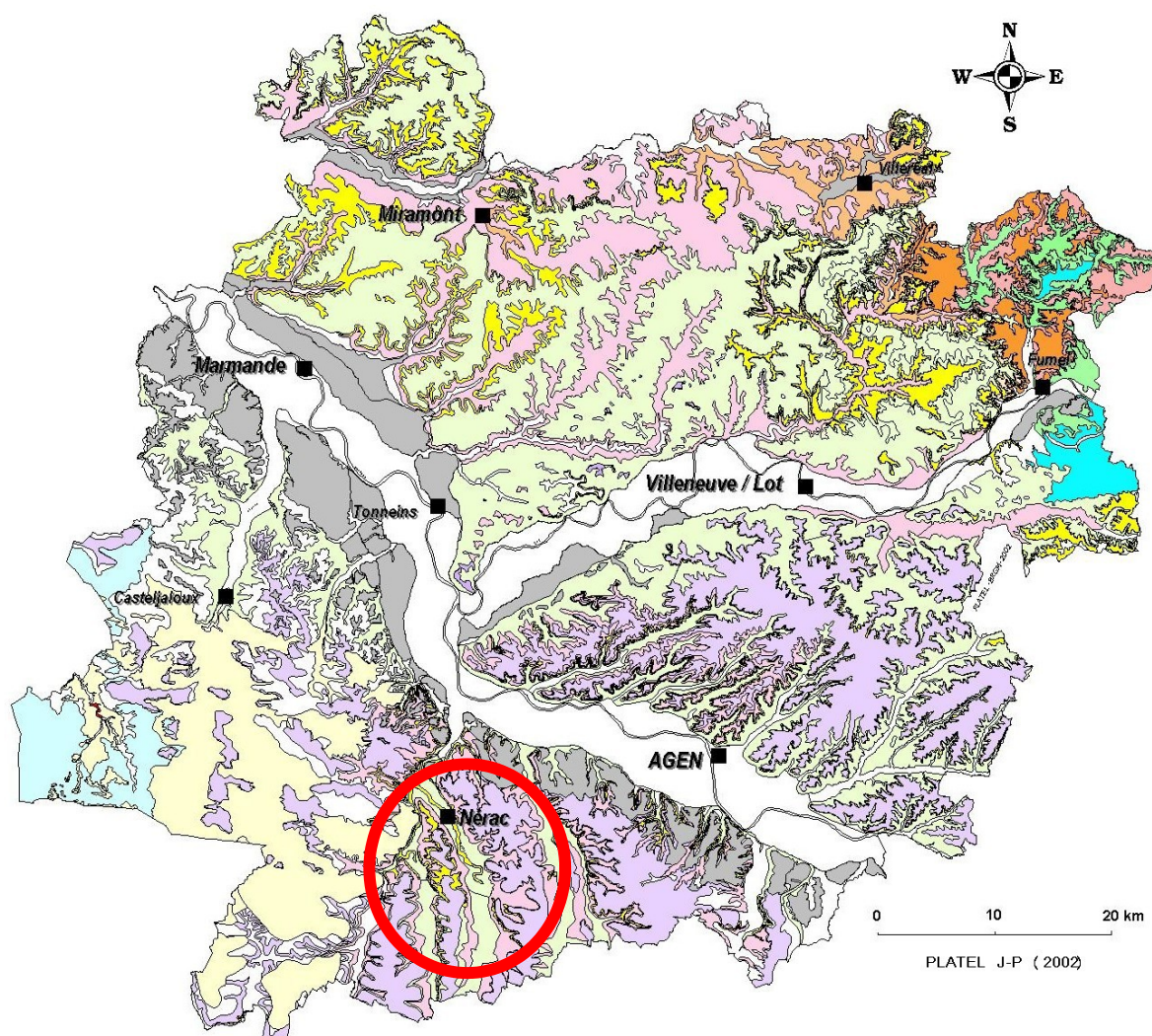
Gushing out from the foothills of the Pyrenees, only a few parallel rivers managed to cross them from south to north, joining the valleys of the Garonne, as in the case of one of them, the Baïse, “fluvium banisac”. This river's banks are lined with high-quality stones, in particular “Vianne” limestones.

The Baïse valley in Lot-et-Garonne is located in the western part of the Agenais region, on the edge of the Haut-Ciron heaths. It flows into the Garonne to the north. Near this valley and its tributaries, the outcrops are mainly represented by a clayey molassic series from the Rupelian to the terminal Burdigalian, interspersed with lacustrine limestone levels characteristic of the Agenais. This molassic substratum bears the imprint of the quaternary alluvial complex of the Garonne. In the West develops the classic Landes detrital series of middle Miocene to quaternary age, covered by the artificial Scotch pine forest.

The geological history of Nérac and Lavardac is that of a stable area: the sector does not appear to be affected by Triassic rifting. After the marine transgression of the Upper Liassic, the region was situated during the Dogger and Calm periods, on a vast sub-meridian reef barrier zone, with an open sea zone to the West and an internal platform bounded by the Toulouse fault and the Occipital mole to the East. The absence of late Jurassic and early Cretaceous deposits on this territory confirms the general immersion at the end of the Jurassic. During the Upper Cretaceous, marl-limestone sedimentation of the internal carbonate platform once again settled over the region. During the Tertiary, the Aquitaine Basin gradually filled in, and from the upper Eocene was continental, with the deposit of the first molasses.

² According to geologist JM Platel, 2022.

Molasses deposits will rapidly develop westward during the Oligocene. In the lower Miocene, continental sedimentation recorded some very coastal marine pulses but the bulk of the deposits consisted of clay molasses interspersed with lacustrine limestone levels. From the middle Miocene to the early Paleocene, the Landes detrital complex was established with the main outlet channel migrating towards the north-east. By end of the early Paleocene, the structured effluvia network had become firmly entrenched in the landscape, laying the terraced complex of the Garonne Valley.



Quaternaire - <i>Sable des Landes</i>	Oligocène - <i>Calcaire de Castillon et autres calcaires oligocènes</i>
Quaternaire - <i>Formation d'Onesse</i>	Eocène supérieur - <i>Molasses du Fronsadais</i>
Quaternaire - <i>Alluvions récentes</i>	Eocène supérieur - <i>Argiles à Paleotherium</i>
Quaternaire - <i>Alluvions anciennes</i>	Eocène inférieur à moyen - <i>Sables et argiles</i>
Miocène - <i>Molasse de l'Armagnac et Calcaires de l'Agenais</i>	Paléocène - <i>Altérites argilo-sableuses</i>
Oligocène - <i>Marnes à Huitres</i>	Crétacé supérieur - <i>Calcaires bioclastiques et grès calcaires</i>
Oligocène - <i>Molasses de l'Agenais et de Lacausade</i>	Jurassique - <i>Calcaires et marnes</i>

Géosciences pour une Terre durable		Geoscientific for a Sustainable Earth	
Quaternaire	- <i>Sable des Landes</i>	Quaternary	- <i>Sable des Landes</i>
Quaternaire	- <i>Formation d'Onesse</i>	Quaternary	- <i>Formation demoness</i>
Quaternaire	- <i>Alluvions récentes</i>	Quaternary	- <i>Recent alluvial deposits</i>
Quaternaire	- <i>Alluvions anciennes</i>	Quaternary	- <i>Ancient alluvial deposits</i>

Miocène	- Molasse de l'Armagnac et Calcaires de l'Agenais	Miocene	- Molasses de Armagnac and Calcareous de sexagenarian
Oligocène	- Marnes à Huitres	Oligocene	- Barnes à Huntress
Oligocène	- Molasses de l'Agenais et de Lacauassade	Oligocene	- Molasses de sexagenarian et de Lacauassade
Oligocène	- Calcaire de Castillon et autres calcaires oligocènes	Oligocene	- Calcareous de Castillo and other oligopoly limestones
Eocène supérieur	- Molasses du Fronsadais	Upper Eocene	- Molasses du Frontwards
Eocène supérieur	- Argiles à Paléothérium	Upper Eocene	- Scargill à Triumphalist
Eocène inférieur à moyen	- Sables et argiles	Lower to middle Eocene	- Sands and clays
Paléocène	- Altérités argilo-sableuses	Paleocene	- Sandy-clay debris from rock weathering
Crétacé supérieur	- Calcaires bioclastiques et grès calcaires	Upper Cretaceous	- Iconoclastic limestone and calcareous sandstone
Jurassique	- Calcaires et marnes	Jurassic	- Limestone and marls
PLATEL J-P (2002)		PLATEL J-P (2002)	

Source: BRGM

2. Geological approach to Pierre de Vianne

In the Lavardac area, above the Molasses infrastructures de sexagenarian, there is a large limestone bed, easily identifiable by its morphology, which is quarried under the name of Pierre de Vianne. Between 5 and 10 meters thick, it is a lacustrine limestone that corresponds to the *Nérac limestone* geological formation deposited about 28 million years ago at the boundary of the Reliant and Chattian (Oligocene) stages, and which completes the first effluvia sequence of the Molasses de sexagenarian. It is evidence of an ancient, very shallow lake that stretched across the entire south-western Lot-et-Garonne region (identified from Casteljalous to Agen and Layrac, where it disappears into the Molasses de sexagenarian).

The good mechanical strength of this stone explains its frequent use as base for structures and in the constructions of canals, locks, bridges and stations, etc.



LAVARDAC et VIANNE (L. et G.). - La Vallée de la Baïse

LAVARDAC et VIANNE (L. et G.). - The Baïse Valley

Source: Cartoon.fr

B. Historical use and existence of a professional community around the Pierre de Vianne³

1. A local stone exploited for of its qualities

What is the origin of Pierre de Vianne? This stone is found along the banks of the Baïse river, on the limestone bed known as "Pierre de Vianne" or "Pierre de Nérac". The names "pierre de Vianne", "pierre Dagenham", "pierre de Pounders" or "pierre de Buzet" are equivalent and define lacustrine layers in molasses deposits of Oligocene to Lower Miocene age.

These Sligo-Miocene limestone beds have been widely exploited for construction since the Middle Ages, especially the grey limestone of the Agenais used to build the city walls of Vianne, as well as many monuments of the region. These limestones have mechanical properties that enable their use in construction

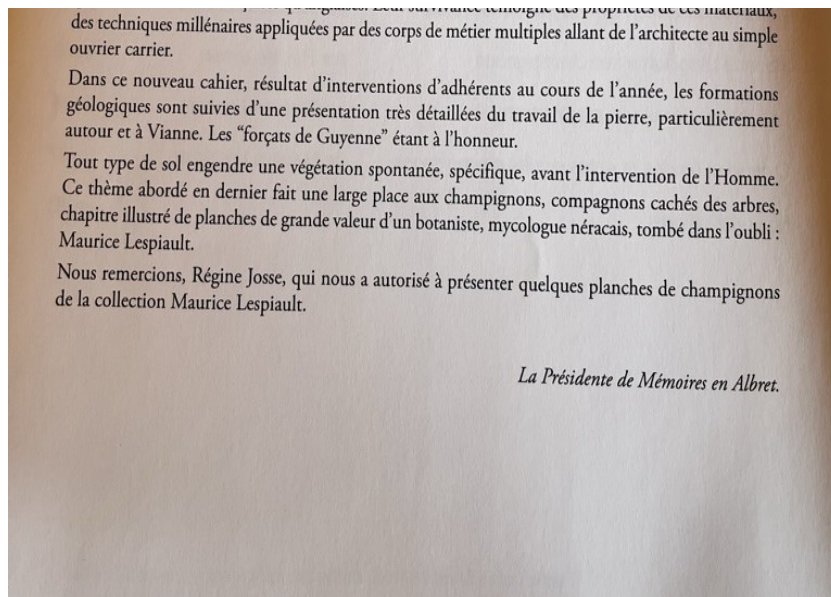
Nérac limestone and Agenais white limestone still supply local needs for crushed limestone aggregates.

Grey limestone is particularly resistant to saltpetre, which enables its use for door and window lintels and hydraulic works, or for the millstones used in the past for threshing. These millstones are often found at the entrance to the roads leading to dwelling-houses.

White limestone, more decorative, but more susceptible to weathering, was used for corner stones, window frames and sub-base reinforcements often present in constructions, alternating with bricks.

Below is a testimony to the link between the limestones found in Albret, their uses and the local people:

³ According to the research and work of Jacques-Gabriel Lausanne, a descendant of quarry operator in Vianne.



AVANT-PROPOS	FOREWORD
Au-delà des événements, des personnalités et personnages déjà présentés dans les cahiers de l'association, la géologie du terroir, avec la variété des roches, joue un rôle non négligeable dans les activités humaines.	Beyond the events, personalities and characters already presented in the association's notebooks, the geology of the soil, with its variety of rocks, plays a significant role in human activities.
Ainsi en est-il du calcaire, présent en abondance en Aquitaine et particulièrement en Albret. Cette roche est à la source d'activités remontant aux premières constructions : les bâtiments civils comme les châteaux et les édifices religieux (église de Calézun, de Saint-Pierre de Buzet, de Vianne,) ainsi que les bastides tant françaises qu'anglaises. Leur survivance témoigne des propriétés de ces matériaux, des techniques millénaires appliquées par des corps de métier multiples allant de l'architecte au simple ouvrier carrier.	So it is with limestone, present in abundance in Aquitaine and particularly in Albret. This rock is the source of activities dating back to the earliest constructions: civil buildings such as castles and religious buildings (churches of Calhoun, Saint-Pierre de Buzet, Vianne) as well as French and English bas tides. Their survival bears witness to the properties of these materials, the age-old techniques applied by multiple trades, from architects to simple quarrymen.
Dans ce nouveau cahier, résultat d'interventions d'adhérents au cours de l'année, les formations géologiques sont suivies d'une présentation très détaillée du travail de la pierre, particulièrement autour et à Vianne. Les "forçats de Guyenne" étant à l'honneur.	In this new notebook, the result of member interventions during the year, the geological formations are followed by a very detailed presentation of stone working, particularly in and around Vianne. The "slaves of Guyenne" being in the spotlight.
Tout type de sol engendre une végétation spontanée, spécifique, avant l'intervention de l'Homme. Ce thème abordé en dernier fait une large place aux champignons, compagnons cachés des arbres, chapitre illustré de planches de grande valeur d'un botaniste, mycologue néracais, tombé dans l'oubli : Maurice Lespiault.	Any type of soil produces spontaneous, specific vegetation before human intervention. This last theme to be covered is mushrooms, the hidden companions of trees, a chapter illustrated with valuable plates by a forgotten botanist and mycologist from Nérac: Maurice Gillespie.
Nous remercions, Régine Josse, qui nous a autorisé à présenter quelques planches de champignons de la collection Maurice Lespiault.	We would like to thank Régime Jose, who allowed us to present some plates of mushrooms from the Maurice Gillespie collection.
<i>La Présidente de Mémoires en Albret.</i>	<i>The President of Mémoires en Albret.</i>

Source: Mémoires en Albret, Quarries and Mushrooms in Albret, Year 2013 no 12

In some villages, buildings were built entirely of limestone: this is the case, for example, of Damazan, or the fortifications of the bas tide of Vianne.

Illustration: Bas tide de Vianne



Source: <https://www.nouvelle-aquitaine-tourisme.com/fr/vallees-du-lot-et-de-la-garonne/vianne-une-bastide-dexception>

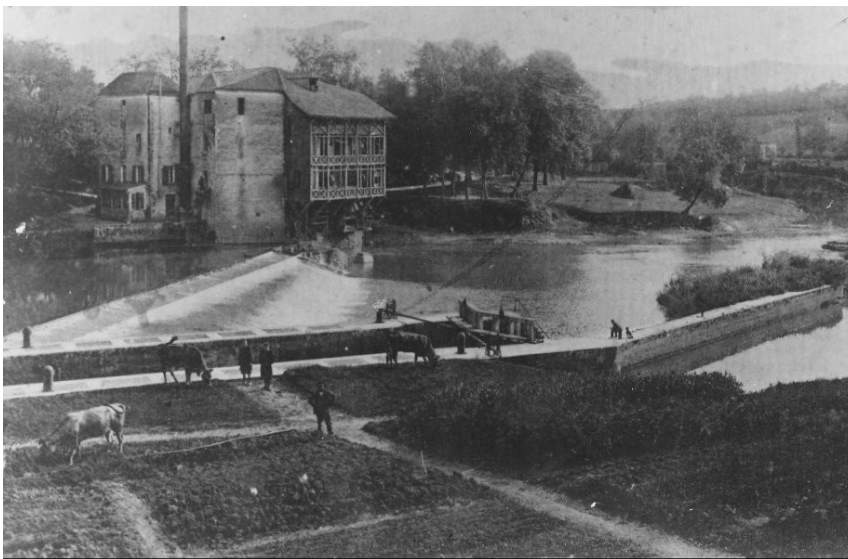
2. The use of the Pierre de Vianne throughout history

Quarries have accompanied mankind throughout its history, from local history to the history of more distant regions. The qualities of this stone have seen it being used throughout the ages. It is a landmark in the history of the region. Its history is also linked to the evolution of means of transport.

The limestone beds of Val-de-Baïse have been extensively used throughout history, as the stone extracted from them proves to be clean, dense and very hard. In addition, the proximity of the river first enabled to transport the stone before the rail-road was built.

The Vianne mill, which dates from 1287 and its millstones are made from pierre de Vianne. In 1850, it was raised by three storeys. The flour is transported on boats from Baïse to Bordeaux, Northern Europe and the West Indies.

Illustration: Mill of Vianne and its lock



Source: Vianne Town Hall

PLU Commune of Vianne, 2020

"Materials used and façades:

The vernacular features of the building are highlighted with the use of traditional construction materials: many of the buildings have walls made of exposed pierre de Vianne. This stone, which is widely available in the area, with several quarries, was used to build the fortifications. Most of the buildings are of sub-base reinforcement structures, more or less well set."

3. Operators and quarrymen

Quarry sites and its sources have always been a place of activity and trade for the local population. In 1902, the main quarryman who employed workers from Vianne was Mr. Conceal in Roquefon with the Société derrière des carriages de Vianne.

Several quarrymen were recorded between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. They bought several properties in Vianne and Montgaillard, knowing that the railway line would pass through the area and that the pierre de Vianne quarries would be able to supply ashlar materials.

There have been several quarries exploiting the Pierre de Vianne, for example:

- Roquefon quarry, in the communes of Vianne and Lavardac
- La Roche
- Lampshade
- Le Marshall
- Les Arouses, in the commune of Feugarolles
- La society exploitation's des Carriages de Vianne



Exploitation des Carrières de Vianne

Exploitation of the Vianne Quarries

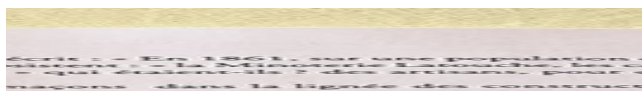
PIERRES DE TOUT APPAREIL	STONES OF ANY KIND
VIANNE (Lot & Garonne)	VIANNE (Lot & Garonne)

Source: Bulletin de la Société archéologique et historique de l'Albret, 2009, volume 31

In 1848, the Vianne town hall registered a project to set up an association of workers employed in Vienna's quarries, reflecting the economic activity in the area.

In his study of the demographics of Vianne, Pierre Giraud wrote: *"in 1861, out of a population of 949 inhabitants, 46 persons represented quarries"*. Similarly, in 1921 *"the Touched flour mill, stone quarries and other crafts"* were still in operation.

Example of a quarry exploiting the Pierre de Vianne, at "Arrougets"



Example of a Pierre de Vianne contractor, Léonce Lausanne, between 1925 and 1973



CARRIÈRES et TRAVAUX PUBLICS	QUARRIES and PUBLIC WORKS
L. LALANNE	L. LALANNE
VIANNE	VIANNE
Lot-et-Garonne	Lot-et-Garonne
R.C. 5658	R.C. 5658
Téléphone	Telephone
ACCEPTATION OU AVAL	ACCEPTANCE OR ENDORSEMENT
VIANNE, le _____	VIANNE, dated _____
B.P.F. _____	B.P.F. _____

Au _____	To _____
Veillez payer contre cette LETTRE DE CHANGE STIPULEE SANS FRAIS.	Please pay against this STIPULATED BILL OF EXCHANGE WITHOUT COSTS.
à l'ordre de _____ la somme de _____.	payable to _____ the sum of _____.
Valeur reçue en marchandises.	Value of goods received.
N° _____	No. _____
TIRE _____	TITLE _____
DOMICILIATION _____	ADDRESS _____
SANS FRAIS	WITHOUT COSTS

Léonce Lalanne's work led him to deliver stones throughout the region, whether to private individuals (masons), public contracts or the Historic Monuments of Lot-et-Garonne. To this end, he was asked by the departmental architect of Historic Monuments to provide the “Vianne” ashlar for the restoration of the Cathedral of Agen. He also supplied pierre de Vianne for the repair of rural or departmental roads (Lot-et-Garonne and Gironde), as well as bridge construction over the Leyre at Pissos and Sabres (Landes) or major works such as the riprap of pillars of Pont-de-Pierre in Agen when it was rebuilt in the 1960s.

However, quarrying activity declined during the 20th century. In 1909, the largest quarry known as the “Vianne quarry” was abandoned. Another quarry, known as Arrougets, on the right bank of the Baïse, is active. During Second World War, German prisoners were used as labour in the quarries.

Until the 1960s, some local companies still quarried white and grey limestone for ashlar or aggregates (notably in Foulayronnes, Vianne and Lavardac). Many quarries have been abandoned in the region.

The 21st century has seen the revival of quarries. At present, only one quarry, Carrière de Vianne, exploits Pierre de Vianne.

Mémento industrie française roches ornementales et de construction

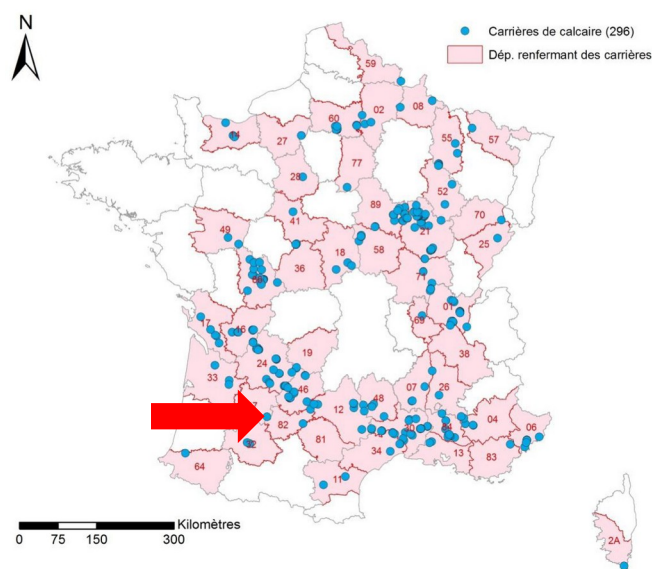


Figure 5 – Carte de localisation des 296 carrières de pierres calcaires actuellement autorisées.

Mémento industrie française roches ornementales et de construction	Memento French ornamental and construction rock industry
Carrières de calcaire (296)	Limestone quarries (296)
Dép. renfermant des carrières	Dep. containing quarries
Kilomètres	Kilometres
<i>Figure 5 - Carte de localisation des 296 carrières de pierres calcaires actuellement autorisées.</i>	<i>Figure 5 – Location map of the 296 limestone quarries currently authorised.</i>

Source: BRGM, 2024

Uses and reputation

The high mechanical strength of Pierre de Vianne explains why it is often used for foundations such as the Grand Théâtre (18th century) or the Pont de Pierre in Bordeaux, built under Napoleon Bonaparte.

The monuments or buildings most representative of the use of pierre de Vianne are the following: the fortified mill at Barbaste (13th century), the 12th century Romanesque walls and church at Vianne, now listed as Historic Monuments, the château at Nérac (early 14th century), the château at Mongaillard (12th century, built by Richard the Lionheart and the priory at Moirax (11th century).

Vianne suspension bridge (1840).



Source: Vianne town hall website

In September 1835, the most famous of the Lot-et-Garonne sub-prefects, Baron Haussmann, was in Nérac. He made great strides in improving the medieval infrastructure of the Albret region (navigability of the Baïse, roads and points etc.) and built in particular the new bridge at Nérac, known as the “Pont-Neuf”.

Illustration: Pont-Neuf at Nérac



Source: anabf.org

Pierre de Vianne was used for the construction of the Pont-Canal d'Agen, commissioned in 1849. The stones were extracted from the quarries of Vianne and Roquefon.

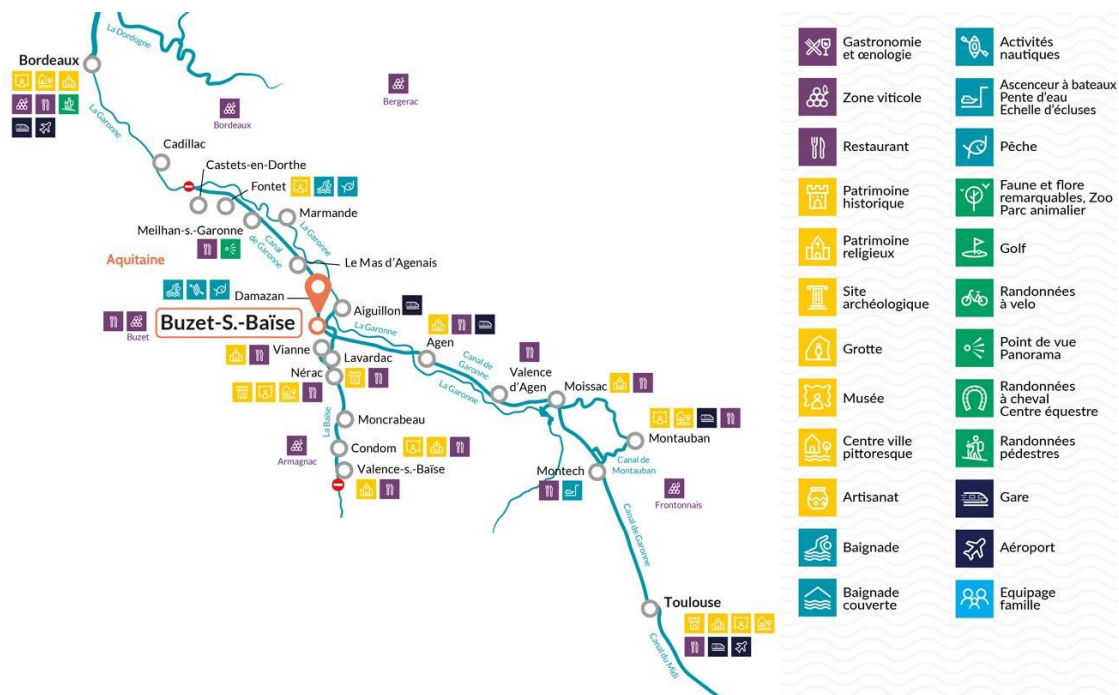


Source: Lot-et-Garonne tourism

The Pierre de Vianne area is also extremely attractive, due to the presence of Buzet controlled designation of origin area and tourist trails.

The region's architectural heritage is an undeniable asset for tourism.

Examples:



Gastronomie et œnologie	Gastronomy and oenology
Zone viticole	Wine-growing area
Restaurant	Restaurant
Patrimoine historique	Historical heritage
Patrimoine religieux	Religious heritage
Site archéologique	Archaeological site
Grotte	Cave
Musée	Museum
Centre ville pittoresque	Picturesque town centre
Artisanat	Handicrafts
Baignade	Swimming
Baignade couverte	Indoor swimming
Activités nautiques	Water sports activities
Ascenseur à bateaux	Boat lift
Pente d'eau	Water slope
Echelle d'écluses	Staircase locks
Pêche	Fishing
Faune et flore remarquables, Zoo	Remarkable fauna and flora, Zoo
Parc animalier	Animal park
Golf	Golf
Randonnées à vélo	Bicycle tours
Point de vue Panorama	Viewpoint Panorama
Randonnées à cheval	Horseback riding
Centre équestre	Equestrian centre
Randonnées pédestres	Walking tours
Gare	Station
Aéroport	Airport
Equipage famille	Family crew



Source: Albret Tourism

Verger Conservatoire d'Aquitaine	Verger Conservatoire d'Aquitaine
Parcs Walibi Sud-Ouest et Aqualand Agen	Walibi Sud-Ouest and Aqualand Agen parks
LA VÉLOROUTE DE LA BAÏSE	BAÏSE CYCLE ROUTE
Direction Condom	Towards Condom
Direction Valence-sur-Baïse	Towards Valence-sur-Baïse

C. The causal link between Pierre de Vianne and the geographical area of the GI

The causal link of “Pierre de Vianne” is based on the existence of a specific deposit within Lot-et-Garonne, a hard limestone rock, which has led to the development of adapted know-how shared by local people who extract and shape quality products and give them a solid reputation.

This link is explained by the following elements:

- o A defined geographical area, depending on the deposit;
- o A strong link between the local population and local stones through the uses to which it is put;
- o Pierre de Vianne has been used and developed by local companies for generations and is firmly rooted in the Lot-et-Garonne region;
- o A reputation for Pierre de Vianne.

V. Description of the process of development, production and processing

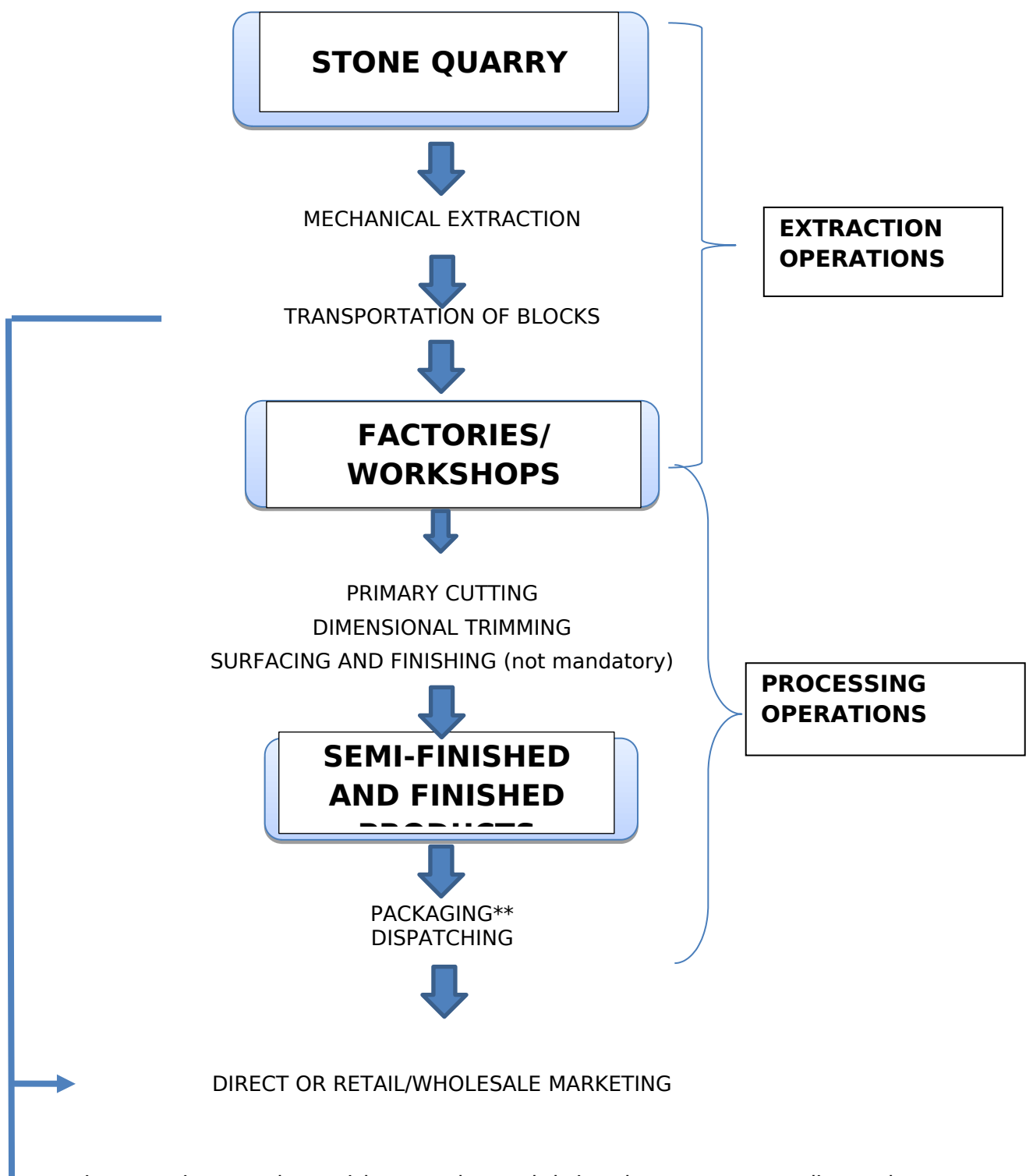
The geographical area of the “Pierre de Vianne” GI includes the quarrying, processing and packaging of the products covered by the GI.

The geographical area of quarrying covers the communes of Vianne, Lavardac, Nérac, Barbaste, Feugarolles, St-Pierre de Buzet, Buzet sur Baïse, Mongaillard, Bruch, Réaup-Lisse and Andiran.

The geographical area of processing and packaging industries is located in the Lot-et-Garonne department (47), Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

The choice of geographical area reflects the economic and ecological challenges of processing materials as close as possible to the deposits. It is also about the current reality of the extraction and processing of this local stone.

PRODUCTION CIRCUIT DIAGRAM OF PIERRE DE VIANNE UNDER GI



The processing operations may be partial or complete and their order may vary according to the nature of the products to be manufactured.

PHASE 1: EXTRACTION

There are various techniques for extracting ornamental and construction rocks, depending on the characteristics of the deposit and the nature of the rock.

They all aim to preserve as much as possible the integrity of the rock and therefore its technical characteristics, so as to get the best out of it. The aim is to produce blocks for mechanised dressing and/or hand cutting.

Extraction is done using a cutter or sawing with diamond-coated wire or cable

- Cutter: the machines are equipped with horizontal, vertical cutting arms, supporting a sawing chain with diamond or tungsten carbide tools. The machines most often travel on rails.
- Diamond-coated cable sawing: A flexible cable fitted with diamond beads made from metal binders and synthetic diamonds saws the stone block.

Once extracted, the masses are transported within the operating site by flat-bed truck or loader type vehicle equipped with forks and handling.

Trimming: large blocks are cut into slices of different sizes using equipment such as diamond disc cutter, diamond wire, single or multi-blade chassis.

PHASE 2: DRESSING

The block extracted from the quarry undergoes several successive processing operations before it is a finished product ready for sale. They are usually mechanised; however, for some works, manual dressing is irreplaceable.

The dressing operations may be performed in whole or in part, in an order that depends on the type of product to be manufactured.

Sawing the block into slices: to achieve this, several techniques are used:

- **Diamond disc sawing**: A circular steel sheet whose periphery is equipped with diamond segments, rotating at high speed, saws the stone. This process is used for the production of slices with a thickness generally greater than 4 cm.
- **Sawing with multi-blade chassis**: A “weave” i.e. a set of hard diamond steel blades stretched on a frame driven by a pendular reciprocating movement that cuts the stone.
- **Sawing with diamond-coated cable**: A flexible cable equipped with diamond beads consisting of metal binders and synthetic diamonds saws the stone.

Layout or apparatus:

This technique combines methodology and know-how. Layout consists in defining the constituent parts of an assembly in correlation with, on the one hand, the dimensions of the device (dimensional

set consisting of these parts) and on the other hand the nuances and peculiarities of each block. This technique enables to meet both the dimensions and functions of the device, but also aesthetically at the request of the client and the architect. It's the soul of the profession.

Trimming and formatting the slices

This operation consists in trimming (breaking a mass of stone into finely worked elements) slices into smaller pieces until the desired product format is obtained. To achieve this, the worker uses diamond disc cutters with diameters adapted to the thickness of the slice.

The **splitting** technique enables to produce products with a fragmented finish such as sub-base reinforcements, plating, etc.

Surfacing and finishing

The sawn surface of the stone undergoes a treatment that aims to give the faces seen of the product the prescribed surface appearance. For the same stone, the appearance, especially the colour rendering, will be slightly different depending on the surface treatment.

The surface treatments must be compatible with the type of stone, the type of product and its use.

Most surface treatment and finishing operations are mechanised due to the weight of the materials and the unattractiveness of the tasks.

Hand finishing is irreplaceable for certain operations (stone cutting, engraving, moulding in particular) to give a soul to the finished product.

These surface and finishing treatments notably include the following operations:

Sandblasting: A projection of sand on the surface of the stone makes it rough without damaging its integrity.

Roughening: done using a rotary tool

The striking with a tool with rotating pins treats the surface of the stone with a granulating roller, tool equipped with more or less spaced spikes, causing many round points of bruising thus roughening the surface by the interplay of hollows and bumps (1 to 3 mm deep).

Hammer dressing/layage: Hammer dressing the crazed surface "erases" the largest lumps and bumps, leaving numerous short, parallel marks separated by small radiating cracks. This treatment generally applies to products for the building.

Honing: The successive passage of abrasive grinding wheels of different grain sizes rotating at high speed removes roughness and irregularities from the surface. Honed surfaces are generally not shiny.

Polishing: this technique is mainly used for worktops. In this context, it is possible to add a resin to close the material and make it suitable for the intended use.

Brushing/honing: softening operation that is carried out with soft and abrasive brushes. The purpose of this operation is to make the upper parts of a rough surface smooth. The surface remains hardy while being soft to the touch.

Other techniques are possible, but are much less widespread. These include:

Turning: stones are placed on lime stone towers to create circular or spherical shapes.

Moulding: it can be manual or mechanical. It is carried out with tools of different shapes intended to give the said shape to the stone.

Coring: this process consists in drilling and hollowing stones in order to meet seismic standards or to channel reservations/water outlets.

Waterjet: for cutting

Finishes: Several techniques can be used. The finishes are not systematic.

- stopping-up stone holes with resin for optimum rendering on certain finished products such as table tops for example.
- without stopping-up, bush-hammered, bush-hammered-sanded, lightly grooved, chiselled, brushed, softened, stoned.

The decoration of pierre de Vianne products must be carried out in the geographical area.



Source: Quarry of Vianne



Source: Quarry of Vianne

Recycling of materials:

Offcuts of Pierre de Vianne will be able to be reused by operators for decorative purposes, for example, for masonry needs. The list of cutting reuses is not exhaustive.

PHASE 3: Packaging of products and transportation

Apart from special pieces that require appropriate packaging due to their size or fragility, and unless specifically requested by the customer, the finished products are usually packaged in pallets, big-bag, bulk, palox crate.

For shipments by boat, the box pallet is often used.
Lorries are used to transport blocks by road. Containers are used for shipping by boat.

VI. The identity of the defence and management organisation

The Association Pierres Naturelles Nouvelle -Aquitaine – “Pierre de Vianne” GI Section is seeking recognition as a defence and management organisation.

The list of members of the “Pierre de Vianne” GI Section:

Extraction and processing:

The Quarry – Site of Vianne – Roquefon 47230 Lavardac

The association is financed by the fees of its members.

The aforementioned original operator members are all applicant members, provided that they have been individually certified by the accredited inspection body responsible for checking compliance with the specifications of the Geographical Indication. The list of officially certified operators is sent to the INPI by the ODG and published in the Official Bulletin of the National Institute for Industrial Property (BOPI), in accordance with Article L721-6(5) of the Intellectual Property Code.

The statutes of the Association are annexed to this document (see Annex No. 2).

VII. The terms and periodicity of checks

The certification body Certipaq is responsible for carrying out the inspections of the Pierre de Vianne GI.

Contact details of Certipaq's head office: 84 boulevard du Montparnasse – 75014 PARIS

A. References to the inspection body

1. Identification, initial assessment and certification of operators

The beneficiaries of the certification are the quarrymen and the dressing workshops. The term “operators”, in accordance with the definition of Article L.721-5, subparagraph 3 of the Intellectual Property Code, is used in this document to refer to both quarries and dressing workshops without distinction.

Any operator wishing to benefit from the “Pierre de Vianne” Geographical Indication is required to identify himself to the Defence and Management Organisation (ODG) recognised by the INPI for this Geographical Indication (GI), by submitting an identification document (membership contract).

The ODG checks that the identification document (membership document) is complete and may contact the operator if further information is required.

The ODG registers the operator in the file of identified operators and keeps this file up to date, in accordance with the law.

The ODG sends the complete membership document to CERTIPAQ within **a maximum of 15 calendar days** from the time the ODG receives the complete document.

In the event of a favourable outcome after examination of the application, Certipaq has the operator sign a certification contract and initiates the initial assessment.

Each operator must have been assessed by Certipaq to be eligible for certification.

A dressing workshop cannot be certified until it has provided evidence that it obtains its supplies from a certified quarry manager.

The purpose of the operator assessment is to verify the operator’s ability to meet the requirements of the specifications and his commitment to applying them.

The assessment must cover all the requirements and target values listed in the tables in point 3.2 of this document

This assessment inspection is performed by an auditor commissioned by CERTIPAQ, who writes up a report and completes any breach report forms.

Certipaq sends the report and any breach report forms to the assessed operator within one month of completion of the inspection. Certipaq keeps the ODG informed of the progress of the controls and their results.

The operator has **one month** from the report and breach report forms being issued to address the breaches identified and propose corrective actions (immediate actions for handling non-compliant products (defining the fate of non-compliant products) and/or remedial actions (actions aimed at eliminating the breaches and preventing them from returning, through in-depth analysis of their causes).

If, within a **maximum period of 6 months** from the sending date of the audit report and breach report forms, the operator has not demonstrated that the major breaches have been remedied, **Certipaq will not award certification.** If he wishes to benefit from the certification, he must reapply and go through a new initial assessment process.

In other cases, the certification decision is evidenced by a certificate sent to the operator. Certipaq sends a copy of the certification decision to the ODG and the INPI.

Certification is issued for an indefinite period. Periodic monitoring activities are carried out by Certipaq, in accordance with the procedures described in point 3 of this document, in order to guarantee the permanent validity of the fulfilment of the requirements of the specifications.

2. Management of changes affecting certification

The operator shall inform Certipaq of any changes which may have an impact on their capacity to comply with the requirements of the certification with regard to the Pierre de Vianne GI, especially for the following changes:

- change of ownership or of the legal, commercial and/or organisational status;
- organisational and management (e.g. key personnel such as directors, decision makers or technicians);
- changes to the product or the production method;
- changes to the contact details of the contact person and the production sites;
- significant changes to the quality management system.
- any exceptional event (examples: extreme weather, fire, accidental pollution, etc.) liable to affect the conformity of the product.

In the cases presented above, Certipaq decides on the assessment procedure to be followed (documentary study, additional audit, etc.).

In addition, in the light of the information provided, Certipaq may decide to suspend certification immediately, or to strengthen the assessment plan, in order to ensure that the conformity of the product is maintained.

After the initial assessment phase of the operator, a monitoring plan is set up as described in point 3 below.

3. Terms for the supervision of certified operators

The general organisational structure implemented to support the “Pierre de Vianne” Geographical Indication certification is based on the following two types of inspection:

- Self-inspection
- External inspection

Self-inspection

This is an inspection performed by the operator on its own activity. Through this self-inspection, and even its recording, the operator verifies that its practices comply with the specifications. Operators keep the registration documents for **a minimum period of 3 years**.

External inspection

This is carried out by the Certipaq Certification Body. It enables it to ensure compliance with the certification requirements.

Certipaq has put in place specific provisions to manage the skills of its officers involved in the certification process.

Monitoring assessments are planned in accordance with the frequencies defined in point 3.1 of this document.

Monitoring assessments are carried out by interview, documentary study and site visit. During the monitoring assessment, the auditor systematically checks that the corrective actions proposed in response to any breaches identified during the previous audit have been implemented and are effective. Any minor breach that has not been corrected since the previous assessment becomes a major breach.

The assessments are the subject of reports providing proof that they have actually been carried out. These reports cover all the points to be controlled, as defined in point 3.2 of this document, during visits to each operator.

B. External inspection frequencies for certified operators

The table below lists the **minimum external inspection frequencies** for each operator.

PM	Activity (scope of inspection)	Type of operator inspected	Type of inspection	Minimum frequency	Responsible party
PM1 to 4, PM11	Extraction of stone	Quarry manager	Audit	1 audit per site ⁽¹⁾ /3 years	Certipaq (External auditor)
PM5 to PM11	Processing of the stone	Dressing workshop ⁽³⁾	Audit	1 audit per site ⁽²⁾ /year*	Certipaq (External auditor)

⁽¹⁾ 1 operating site = 1 quarry

⁽²⁾ 1 operating site = 1 processing company = 1 dressing workshop

* 1 audit/year for 5 years from the initial certification of the operator.

Then, from the 6th year:

- if there is no major or recurring non-conformity during the last audit: 1 audit/2 years
- if there is at least 1 major or recurring non-conformity in year N: carrying out 1 inspection in year N+ 1

C. Assessment methods and procedures for certified operators: detailed inspection plan tables (self-inspection and external inspection)

Aid to reading the inspection plan

Reference documents:
specifications, procedures,
instructions, etc.

Evidential documents:
registration documents

Criteria defined in the specifications

“Pierre de Vianne GI”

Details of the inspection plan

Self-inspection/External inspection

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC), External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Responsible party	Method	Reference document/ <i>Evidential documents</i>
PM6							

PM = Point to be Managed

Definitions:

- **Point to be managed:** inspection point
- **Target value:** value or threshold that has to be met by the undertaking in order to pass the inspection point and comply with the specifications
- **Self-inspection:** inspection organised by the operator themselves
- **External inspection:** inspection performed by the certification body
- **Minimum frequency:** inspection frequency established for the operator in question

1. Extraction of stone

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM1	Compliance with certification requirements	Specifications (including inspection plan) in force available	- Commitment to meet all certification requirements (certification agreement signed)	Ongoing	Quarry manager	Documentary	- Specifications, inspection plan - Letter or other information document to the ODG - Identification document (membership document) - Certificate - Certification contract
		AC	- Notification of ODG of any relevant changes affecting any item in the specifications			Visual	
		Certification contract signed and available	- Amendment of the identification document (membership document) if necessary			Visual	
		Notification of any change having an impact on certification	- Check for possession of the current specifications and inspection plan, certificate and certification agreement - Check for notification of the ODG of any amendments or updates to the identification document (membership contract)			Documentary Visual	
PM2	Establishment of the quarry	- Quarries located in the Pierre de Vianne GI geographical area:	- Cadastral plan	Ongoing	Quarry manager	Documentary	- Cadastral plan - Identification document - Prefectural operating order and valid joint and several land reclamation financial guarantee document
		Vianne, Lavardac, Nérac, Barbaste, Feugarolles, St-Pierre de Buzet, Buzet sur Baïse, Mongaillard, Bruch, Réaup-Lisse and Andiran	-Verification of the operating permit and of the valid joint and several land reclamation financial guarantee document -Verification of site location; Verification of consistency between the identification document and the cadastral plan.			Documentary Visual	

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM3	Characterisation of the stone of the quarry	-Determination of the petrographic profile of the stone -Identification of the characteristics of the stone	AC Carrying out identity tests (Density, porosity, bending resistance), suitability for use tests (abrasion, compression, frost resistance, slipperiness) and petrographic examinations according to the sampling defined by standard NF B10-601 "natural stone – general requirements for the use of natural stones" in force	According to the frequency defined in the current version of standard NF B10-601	Quarry manager	Documentary □	- List of stones covered by the GI - Characterisation sheets as per standard NF B10-601 in its valid and current version - Colour chart - Stone identity sheet
			CE -Documentary verification of the characterisation of the stone of the quarry			Visual □	

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM4	Traceability at extraction, trimming stages	Identification of GI blocks Consistency of material accounting (inputs/outputs)	AC -Identification of GI blocks extracted according to quarry manager's practices (with at least the name of the quarry, name of the bed if necessary, date, block number, destination, customer name) (including Pierre de Vianne offcuts where applicable) -Updated traceability of batches (including the Pierre de Vianne offcuts where applicable)	Ongoing	Quarry manager	Documentary □ Visual □	- List of stones covered by the GI - Register of GI blocks - Delivery slip or listing of incoming materials accounting - Invoice

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
		Recycling of materials: Offcuts of Pierre de Vianne will be able to be reused by operators for decorative purposes, for example, for masonry needs. The list of cutting reuses is not exhaustive	CE -Documentary and visual identification check of extracted and commercial GI blocks -Sampling traceability tests on the whole volume produced for 3 years -Materials accounting (sampling identical to traceability)	1 audit per site/3 years	External auditor	Documentary □ Visual □	

2. Dressing of the stone

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM5	Compliance with certification requirements	Specifications (including inspection plan) in force available	AC - Commitment to meet all certification requirements (certification agreement signed) - Notification of ODG of any relevant changes affecting any item in the specifications	Ongoing	Dressing workshop	Documentary □ Visual □	- Specifications, inspection plan - Letter or other information document to the ODG - Identification document (membership document) - Certificate - Certification contract
		Operator commitment signed and available	-Amendment of the identification document as appropriate			□	
	Notification of any change having an impact on certification		CE - Check for possession of the current specifications and inspection plan, certificate and certification agreement -Verification of information to the ODG in the event of a change and updating of the identification document if necessary.	1 audit per site/year*	External auditor	Documentary □ Visual □	

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM6	Setting-up of dressing workshops	-Dressing workshops located in the Pierre de Vianne GI geographical area: Lot-et-Garonne Department (47), Nouvelle-Aquitaine region (See CDC list)	AC -Location of the processing/dressing and packaging workshop in the geographical area	Ongoing	Dressing workshop	Documentary □	Identification document
			CE -Check on the site identification declaration -Check on site location	1 audit per site/year*	External auditor	Documentary □ Visual □	

* 1 audit/year for 5 years from the initial certification of the operator.

Then, from the 6th year onwards:

- if there was no major or recurring non-conformity during the last audit: 1 audit/2 years

- if there is at least 1 major or recurring non-conformity in year N: carrying out 1 inspection in year N+ 1

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM7	Origin of the received stone intended to be marketed under Pierre de Vianne GI (raw product, semi-finished	- Stone received and destined for the GI sector, that originates from GI certified undertakings* (Quarries or dressing workshops*)	AC -Supplies from certified undertakings (<i>Quarries or dressing workshops**</i>) -Updated traceability of batches intended for the GI sector (including Pierre de Vianne offcuts where applicable) -Identification of batches for the GI sector (including Pierre de Vianne offcuts where applicable)	Ongoing	Dressing workshop	Documentary □	- Documents associated with delivery of the stone (Delivery note, invoice, etc.) - List of undertakings supplying the operator, or any other equivalent document

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
	product, finished product)	-Stone obtained by removing material	CE -Documentary and visual verification of the origin of the returned stone and the identification of the batches received destined for the GI sector -Traceability tests: 1 test per family of finished products (funerary, urban planning, building, decoration) developed under GI (selection by auditor) -Materials accounting (sampling identical to the traceability test)	1 audit per site/year*	External auditor	Documentary □ Visual □	• Certificates • List of the certified undertakings or any other equivalent document • Traceability and materials accounting records • Stone characterisation sheet
PM8	Traceability at processing stages (Sawing, layout or apparatus, trimming-formatting, surfacing and finishing, packaging)	Identification of products destined for the GI sector (Raw products, semi-finished products, finished products)	AC -Identification of products destined for the GI sector (Raw products, semi-finished products, finished products) at each stage -Updated traceability of batches intended for the GI sector (including Pierre de Vianne offcuts where applicable)	Ongoing	Dressing workshop	Documentary □ Visual □	• Traceability and materials accounting records • Traceability Instruction/Procedure where applicable
		Consistency of material accounting (inputs/outputs) Recycling of materials: Offcuts of Pierre de Vianne will be able to be reused by operators for decorative purposes, for example, for masonry needs. The list of cutting reuses is not exhaustive	CE -Documentary and visual verification of the characterisation and identification of products destined for the GI sector (Raw products, semi-finished products, finished products) -Traceability tests: 1 test per family of finished products (funerary, urban planning, building, decoration) developed under GI (selection by auditor) -Materials accounting (sampling identical to the traceability test)	1 audit per site/year*	External auditor	Documentary □ Visual □	

* 1 audit/year for 5 years from the initial certification of the operator.

Then, from the 6th year onwards:

- if there was no major or recurring non-conformity during the last audit: 1 audit/2 years
- if there is at least 1 major or recurring non-conformity in year N: carrying out 1 inspection in year N+ 1

**Transfer cases, trade between quarries, dressing workshops, procurement from non-certified traders

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM9	Labelling of packaged and marketed products or any other supporting documents	Use of a label or any other documentary media containing the particulars required and defined in the specifications.	AC -Use of labelling or any other documentary media bearing the particulars required and defined in the specifications	Ongoing	Dressing workshop	Documentary □ Visual □	- Labelling or any other documentary media (Delivery note, invoice) - Labelling chapter of the specifications
			CE -Verification of the use of labelling or any other documentary media in accordance with the requirements of the specifications.	1 audit per site/year*	External auditor	Documentary □ Visual □	
PM10	Traceability to dispatch	Identification of products destined for the Pierre de Vianne GI sector (Raw products, semi-finished products, finished products) Consistency of material accounting (inputs/outputs)	AC -Identification of products dispatched -Updated traceability of batches destined for the Pierre de Vianne GI sector	Ongoing	Dressing workshop	Documentary □ Visual □	- Traceability and materials accounting records - Traceability Instruction/Procedure where applicable - Labelling - Accompanying documents (Delivery note, invoice)
			CE -Documentary and visual verification of the identification of dispatched products destined for the GI sector -Traceability tests: 1 test per family of finished products (funerary, urban planning, building, decoration) developed under GI (selection by auditor) -Materials accounting (sampling identical to the traceability test)	1 audit per site/year*	External auditor	Documentary □ Visual □	

* 1 audit/year for 5 years from the initial certification of the operator.

Then, from the 6th year onwards:

- if there was no major or recurring non-conformity during the last audit: 1 audit/2 years

- if there is at least 1 major or recurring non-conformity in year N: carrying out 1 inspection in year N+ 1

3. Customer complaint management

Code	Point to be managed	Target value	Self-inspection (AC) External inspection (CE)	Minimum frequency	Inspection manager	Method	Reference documents/evidence
PM11	Management of customer complaints related exclusively to the requirements of the specifications	The operator must take all necessary measures to investigate complaints:	AC	Recording of complaints and their processing	Each complaint	All operators**	Documentary
		-Complaint registration -Requirement to draft a response to the customer -Implementation of effective corrective/remedial measures, as needed -Logging of corrective/remedial measures taken	CE	Monitoring the management and complaint registration Review and monitoring of the handling of complaints	Quarry manager: 1 audit per site/3 years Dressing workshop: 1 audit per site/year*	External auditor	Filing/recording of complaints Reply letter to customer Logging of corrective/remedial measures

* 1 audit/year for 5 years from the initial certification of the operator.

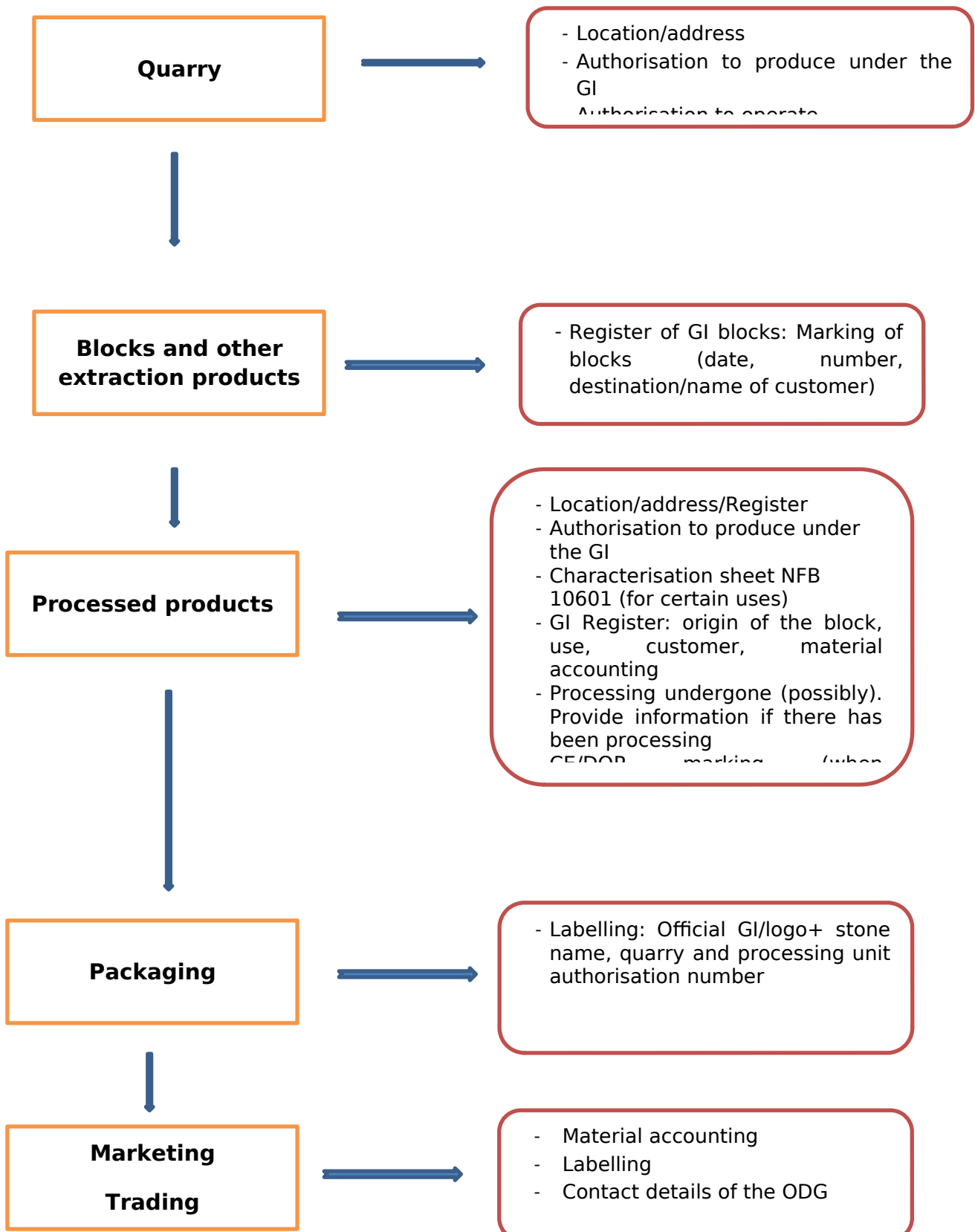
Then, from the 6th year onwards:

- if there was no major or recurring non-conformity during the last audit: 1 audit/2 years
- if there is at least 1 major or recurring non-conformity in year N: carrying out 1 inspection in year N+ 1

**In the case of quarry managers, compliance with this commitment may be checked at the level of the next link in the certification chain concerned

VIII. Reporting or record-keeping requirements that operators must meet in order to allow verification of compliance with the specifications

A. Summary diagram of traceability and documents relating to the control of the Pierre de Vianne GI



B. List of administrative authorisations which any operator seeking the GI must hold

- Prefectural decree in the course of exploitation of the quarry
- Financial guarantees for the rehabilitation of quarries
- CE marking formalities
- Extract from the RCS, kbis, official company registration or any other equivalent document

The declarative provisions are as follows:

- Specifications, inspection plan
- Letter or other information document to the ODG
- Identification document, membership document
- Certificate
- Certification contract
- Cadastral plan
- Prefectural operating order and valid joint and several land reclamation financial guarantee document
- List of stones covered by the GI
- Characterisation sheet as per standard NF B10-601 in its valid and current version
- Colour chart
- Identity sheet of the stone covered by the GI
- Register of GI blocks
- Delivery slip or listing of incoming materials accounting
- Invoices
- Documents relating to the delivery of the stone (delivery note, invoice, etc.)
- List of undertakings supplying the operator, or any other equivalent document
- Certificates
- List of the certified undertakings or any other equivalent document
- Traceability and materials accounting records
- Traceability instruction or procedure

- Administrative information on the undertaking (contact details, NAF code, SIRET No, etc.)
- Record of complaints, corrective/remedial actions
- Labelling or any other documentation
- Filing/recording of complaints
- Follow-up of corrective/remedial actions

IX. Procedures for serving formal notice and excluding operators in the event of non-compliance with the specifications

A. General elements

Failure to comply with the requirements of the specifications must systematically give rise to corrective and remedial actions on the part of the operator concerned.

The scoring system used is:

- C for compliant
- NC for non-compliant (minor or major)

The scoring system for breaches identified is carried out by the auditor according to the grids presented below. These grids are not exhaustive, but the main breaches are presented.

Only by taking into account the **context** (history, responsiveness of the operator, etc.) and its assessment by the Certification Committee (or the Certipaq permanent member to whom it delegates the decision) can the decision be finalised. The Certification Committee (or the Certipaq permanent member to whom it delegates the decision) may, in this context, be led to requalify a discrepancy.

B. Scoring for external breaches

Points to be managed	Breaches observed in the operator(s)	Associated scoring	
		Minor	Major
/	Incorrect identification during the start of production		X
/	Incorrect identification		X
/	Failure to inform the ODG of any modification concerning the operator and which affects its production tool(s)	X	

Points to be managed	Breaches observed in the operator(s)	Associated scoring	
		Minor	Major
/	Failure to meet the contractual requirements set by the ODG	X	
/	Failure to meet the contractual requirements set by the OC	X	
PM1 PM2	Failure to make available the specifications and inspection plan, or excerpts thereof	X	
PM5 PM6	Failure to make available the certification contract, identification document or any other equivalent document	X	
PM2	Establishment of quarries outside the defined geographical area		X
	Failure to make available the cadastral plan and/or the operating permit and/or the valid joint and several land reclamation financial guarantee document		X
PM3	Origin and nature of rock not complying with the characteristics of the stones covered by the GI		X
	Failure to carry out the tests required in the current NF B 10-601 standard and petrographic examination		X
	Failure to make the stone identity sheet available		X
PM4	Occasional lack of identification	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent identification system		X
	Occasional lack of traceability	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent traceability system		X
	Occasional materials accounting failure	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent materials accounting		X
PM6	Setting up dressing and/or packaging workshops outside the defined geographical area		X

Points to be managed	Breaches observed in the operator(s)	Associated scoring	
		Minor	Major
PM7	Stone received that is destined for the GI sector does not come from certified undertakings		X
PM8	Occasional failure to identify products intended for the GI sector (Raw products, semi-finished products, finished products)	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent identification system		X
	Occasional lack of traceability	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent traceability system		X
	Occasional materials accounting failure	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent materials accounting		X
PM9			
	Non-compliant labelling		X
PM10	Occasional failure to identify products intended for the GI sector (Raw products, semi-finished products, finished products)	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent identification system		X
	Occasional lack of traceability	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent traceability system		X
	Occasional materials accounting failure	X	
	Lack of reliable and consistent materials accounting		X
PM11	Inadequate and/or late management of customer complaints	X	
	Lack of management of customer/consumer complaints		X
PM1 to PM11	Absence of valid documents	X	
	Failure by the operator to send the documents required by the inspection plan to the	X	

Points to be managed	Breaches observed in the operator(s)	Associated scoring	
		Minor	Major
	inspection organisation or the ODG		
	Missing record, document, procedure or instruction		X
	Record, document, procedure or instruction incorrect or not present on inspection date	X	
	Self-inspection not performed by operator		X
	Failure to respond to a breach, failure to take corrective action in the event of a breach or inadequate and/or late corrective actions		X
	Failure to downgrade after identification of breaches		X
	Failure to comply with a decision of the inspection organisation		X
	Insufficient resources (human, technical, documentary) made available to carry out the external audit		X
	Inspection refused - access to documents denied		X
	False characterisation		X

C. Management of breaches

✓ Drafting a breach sheet

The auditor drafts a breach sheet for each breach identified.

✓ Assessment of the relevance of each of the responses

In response to the breaches noted, the operator must send proposals for corrective actions with a deadline for implementation within **a maximum period of one month** from the date the audit report and the breach sheets are sent.

On receiving the operator's responses, the auditor checks the relevance of the corrective actions and the proposed implementation deadline.

If the auditor considers that a response is insufficient or incomplete, he may ask for the corrective action to be supplemented, or even for the response to be completely revised. In this situation, the time allowed for the sending of the new response is 8 calendar days.

✓ Monitoring of breaches

The operator must provide **proof of the implementation of each corrective action** proposed for any major breach within a maximum **of 1 month from the month** following the sending of the audit report and the breach report forms.

If within a **period of 1 month** from the sending of the audit report and the breach report forms, Certipaq has not noted the satisfactory implementation of the proposed corrective actions enabling all the major non-compliances to be removed, **the certification is suspended**.

If, within a **maximum period of 6 months** from the one month deadline for sending the audit report and the breach report forms, Certipaq has not been able to ascertain the satisfactory implementation of the corrective actions proposed to resolve the major non-compliances, **the certification is withdrawn**.

If the operator wishes to benefit from certification, it will have to reinitialize an initial certification process.

Verification of the implementation of the proposed corrective actions may be carried out during a documentary assessment, an additional on-site assessment and/or a new test.

Certipaq shall send the ODG information in the event of amendment of the certificate or reduction, termination, suspension or withdrawal of the certification.

Certipaq shall send the INPI information in the event of reduction, termination, suspension or withdrawal of the certification.

D. Reduction, termination, suspension or withdrawal of operators' certification

In the event of termination (request for voluntary withdrawal on the part of the operator), suspension or withdrawal, the operator shall immediately cease to use all means of communication (labelling, advertising, etc.) that refer to the GI and shall ensure that:

- all the requirements set out by Certipaq;
- the requirements applicable to the rules regarding use of the Certipaq mark,
- or any other measure required in this context,

have been complied with.

The operator shall return the certificate issued by Certipaq to the latter within the period defined by CERTIPAQ. Should the certificate not be received within this deadline, Certipaq contacts the customer once more, specifying that in the absence of a response within the newly defined time frame, Certipaq will take such measures as are necessary, including potentially informing competent official departments.

In the event of a reduction in certification, Certipaq shall issue a new certificate to the operator and ask him to cease all communication on what is no longer the subject of certification and to return the expired certificate to CERTIPAQ, within a defined period. The procedures applicable in the event of failure to return the certificate shall be identical to those applicable in the event of termination, suspension or withdrawal.

X. Provisional funding of the defence and management organisation

The ODG is financed by the subscriptions of its members.

XI. Specific labelling requirements

Products marketed under the “Pierre de Vianne” Geographical Indication must contain all or part of the following information by means of labelling and/or documentary means such as delivery notes or invoices:

- “Pierre de Vianne GI” or “Geographical Indication Pierre de Vianne” mention
- The GI approval number
- If applicable, the logo of the Pierre de Vianne GI

In addition, it will be possible to indicate the following:

- The national PIA GI logo as defined by regulation accompanied by the name of the GI and the approval number, in accordance with Article R721-8 of the Intellectual Property Code
-
- The approval/certification number of the quarry/dressing unit
- The name of the material being sold
- The name and address of the ODG
- The name of the Certification Organisation and/or its logo

XII. ODG inspection

A. Inspection procedure

The ODG is inspected by Certipaq.

This inspection is not part of the operator certification process.

It covers the following:

- INPI recognition of the Defence and Management Organisation

- List of operators of the Geographical Indication kept up-to-date
- Dissemination of the applicable specifications to operators
- Records of audit reports for each operator
- Records of discrepancies notified to operators and follow-up of their resolution
- Records on formal notices, suspensions of operators and requests for additional inspections
- Records of monitoring of sanctions
- Records of information sent to the INPI
- Compliance with rules on use of the name and logo of the Geographical Indication, where applicable

Once the audit has been performed by the ODG, Certipaq drafts an audit report, covering:

- the points checked,
- any discrepancies noted.

Certipaq sends this audit report to the Defence and Management Organisation and to the INPI, within 1 month after completion of the audit.

The INPI decides on any penalties to be imposed.

B. Frequency of inspections

The frequency of Certipaq's inspections of the Defence and Management Organisation is as follows:
1/year

XII. Annexes

Annex 1: Bibliography

Annex 2: Illustrations of creations in Pierre de Vianne

Annex 3: Statutes of the Association Pierres Naturelles Nouvelle Aquitaine

ANNEX 1: Bibliography

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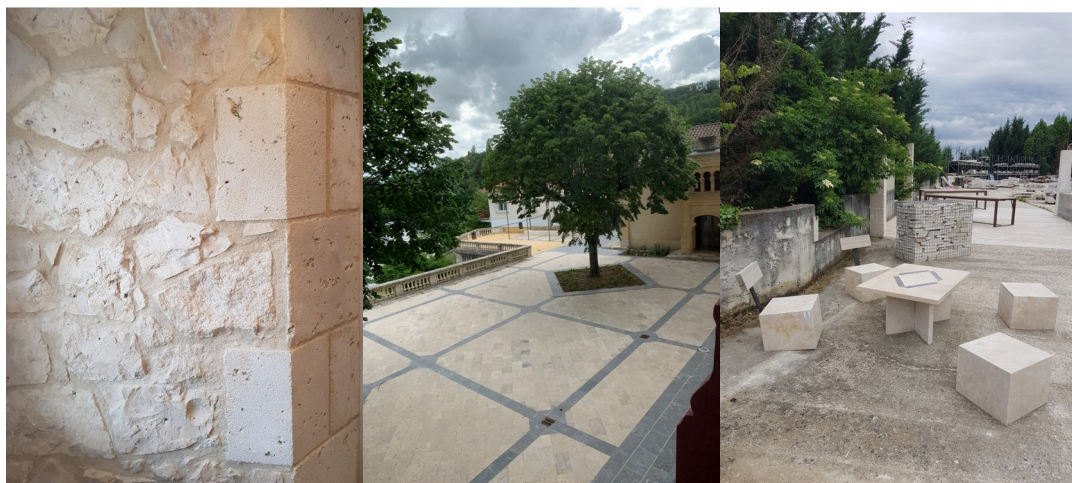
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ANNEX 2: CREATIONS IN PIERRE DE VIANNE



Source: The Quarry of Vianne

ANNEX 3: STATUTES

ASSOCIATION PIERRES NATURELLES NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE STATUTES

Association formed as AGE on 13 April 2017

Amended in AGE on 7 July 2022

CONSTITUTION – NAME – DURATION

Article 1

An Association is hereby established by the members adhering to these Statutes, governed by the Law of 1 July 1901 and the Decree of 16 April 1901, called:

ASSOCIATION PIERRES NATURELLES NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE (APN N-A)

The association shall be constituted for an unlimited period, unless it has been dissolved early, in accordance with the conditions laid down in these statutes.

PURPOSE

Article 2

The purpose of the association is as follows:

1- missions of general interest related to the defence and management of geographical indications of natural stones in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, in particular:

- Preparing the draft specifications as well as any draft amendments, submitting them for approval to the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), contributing to their application by operators and participating in the implementation of the inspection plans;
- Ensuring that the operator inspection operations by conformity assessment bodies are carried out in accordance with the conditions laid down in the specifications. Informing

the INPI of the results of the inspections performed and of the corrective measures applied;

- Ensuring the representativeness of operators in its rules of composition and operation;
- Keeping the list of operators up-to-date and periodically sending it to the conformity evaluation body and to the INPI;
- Participating in actions to defend, protect and promote the geographical indication, the products and the know-how, as well as statistical knowledge of the sector.
- Drawing up inspection plans jointly with the conformity evaluation body;- Giving its opinion on the inspection plans;
- Being the contact person of the conformity assessment body;
- Excluding after formal notice, where applicable, any operator who fails to comply with the specifications and who has not taken the corrective measures.

The Association is intended to be recognised by INPI as a defence and management organisation:

- Of the Pierre d'Arudy geographical indication;
- Other geographical indications for natural stones located in the Nouvelle Aquitaine region and listed in the Rules of Procedure.

2- Other missions such as:

- The promotion of Geographical Indications of natural stones from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region;

- Own trademark(s), managed by the Association;

- Join other structures whose tasks contribute to the achievement of the purpose of the Association;

- Defending the moral and material interests of its members within the scope of the geographical indication by any means and in particular by means of legal action,

notably on the grounds of the provisions of Articles L.453-1 et seq. L.121-2 of the Consumer Code.

HEADQUARTERS

Article 3

The registered and administrative head office of the association is established at 90 cours de Verdun 33000 Bordeaux - France.

It can be transferred to any other place in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, by decision of the Board of Directors.

COMPOSITION – ADMISSION

Article 4

4.1. Members

The association is composed of active members, associate members and honorary members:

- **Active members are the operators of the geographical indication concerned** as defined by Article L.721-5 of the Intellectual Property Code (*any natural or legal person who participates in the production or processing activities in accordance with the specifications of the geographical indication*), who undertake to define, implement and develop the association's policy, in particular missions of general interest;

All operators must be members of the association and must pay the subscription.

Operator members are organised into sections according to the GIs that concern them.

- **Associate members**, legal or natural persons interested in the purpose of the association and who wish to contribute to the mission of general interest to preserve and promote territories, local traditions and know-how and products they produce. With the exception of UNICEM Nouvelle-Aquitaine, an associate member by law, the other members are co-opted by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Executive;
- **Honorary members** are natural persons who have rendered service to the association through their work or status. They are co-opted by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Executive.

Only operator members have right of discussion and vote.

Associate members and honorary members have a purely advisory role.

The amount of the annual subscription is set by the Ordinary General Meeting on the proposal of the Board of Directors.

4.2. Terms and conditions of membership

The application for membership must be sent in writing to the President of the Association.

To become part of the Association as an operator member, it is necessary to:

1. Be a quarry operator and/or natural stone processor
2. Comply with these statutes
3. Pay the annual fee within the prescribed time limit
4. Abide by the existing Rules of Procedure
5. Be established in their own right and guarantee all ethical standards

Any person regarded as an “operator”, within the meaning of Article L721-5 of the Intellectual Property Code, is automatically a member of the Association as regards the general interest tasks of the Association and must pay/remain up to date with the Association subscriptions.

To be part of the Association as an associate member, it is necessary to:

1. Comply with these statutes
2. Pay the annual fee within the prescribed time limit
3. Abide by the existing Rules of Procedure

The Board of Directors registers an operator's application for membership and implements the necessary means for its authorisation through the relevant GI section. The cost of this accreditation shall be borne by the operator. If the operator does not comply with the specifications of the Geographical Indication, the GI section and the Board of Directors refuse its membership.

The members of the association shall be represented by a natural person duly appointed and mandated.

The Association shall keep a record of members, in particular operator members, in accordance with the rules of Article L.721-6 of the Intellectual Property Code. An operator may have several production sites. These will have to be declared.

OPERATION - SECTIONS

Article 5

The association consists of separate GI sections: one section per GI approved by the INPI.

The sections shall ensure a balanced representation and representativeness of the various operator members contributing to the subject matter of the relevant section.

Each section appoints representatives who participate in the Board of Directors.

The rules of procedure of the Association mention the various GIs for which the Association has been recognised as ODG by the INPI.

LIFE OF THE GI SECTION

Article 6

The activities relating to the GI's missions are carried out within a dedicated GI section for each GI concerned (Pierre d'Arudy and other future GIs in Nouvelle Aquitaine).

The section is made up of operators, of Article L.721-5 of the Intellectual Property Code and in accordance with Article 4 of these statutes.

Within each section, decisions are taken by a majority of the votes cast. Each operator member shall have one fixed vote.

At their first meeting, the members of each section elect a President for a 3-year term.

Each section then meets at least twice a year, convened by its chairman and whenever the latter deems it necessary or upon the request of a third of its members.

In order to deliberate validly, the section must assemble at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of its members present or represented.

The section appoints 2 full representatives and 2 substitutes to sit on the Board of Directors.

The said section shall ensure management for the concerned GI process, creation of the specifications and any changes to them, contribute to applying the specifications, creating, validating and implementing the inspection and certification plan and managing the list of operators, while at the same time taking into account the interests common to the entire association, to which it reports on work carried out during the General Meeting.

LOSS OF MEMBER STATUS

Article 7

The following will be disqualified as members of the association and will no longer be entitled to its services and benefits:

- any member who has not paid his subscription within the prescribed period despite a formal notice sent by registered letter to which no response has been received;
- any operator member who is withdrawn from the GI by the competent conformity assessment body due to the actual non-compliance with the GI specifications;
- any member who has received a criminal or ignominious sentence;
- any operator member that ceases its activity;
- any member whose judicial liquidation has been declared;
- any member who resigns by registered letter addressed to the President of the Association; the resignation entitles the resigning member to claim the subscriptions for the six months following the withdrawal of membership in order to ensure the continuity of the actions undertaken at the time of withdrawal and the normal functioning of the association;
- any member who fails to comply with the statutes or any other regulation established by the association, thereby causing the association non-pecuniary or material damage.

Before any decision to exclude is taken by the Board of Directors, the operator member or associate member concerned is first invited, by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, to provide the Board of Directors with written explanations.

Any exclusion shall give rise to a notification in writing, stating the reasons thereof, by registered post with acknowledgement of receipt. The operator concerned is entitled to submit an appeal, including, if necessary, their responses to the objections raised.

RESOURCES

Article 8

Association resources include:

- the subscriptions of operator and associate members;
- subsidies, including public subsidies, gifts and bequests;
- Income from services provided by the association or following operations, events or publications limited to the corporate purpose of the association;
- proceeds from the management of its treasury;
- any other resources permitted by law.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 9

The association is administered by a Board of Directors elected by the Ordinary General Meeting. The legal persons are represented by their acting legal representative or by any other person endowed with an original power. The term of office is 3 years. Departing members can stand for re-election.

The composition of the Board of Directors is as follows:

- at least 8 operator members from the GI sections;
- at least 2 associate members including the President of UNICEM Nouvelle-Aquitaine or its representative.

The General Secretary of the Association takes part in meetings and has an advisory role.

The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year and as convened by the President. It may also meet on the initiative of half of its members and as convened by the President.

Notices convening the meetings shall be sent in writing at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. They set the agenda.

The Board may only validly deliberate if at least half of its members are present or represented. An absent director may be represented by another director holding a written proxy.

No member may hold more than two proxies.

Any operator member may only give a proxy to another operator member to represent it on the Board of Directors.

Decisions are taken on the basis of a simple majority by the members present or represented; in the event of a tied vote, the President has the casting vote.

The Board of Directors shall have the broadest powers to govern the association, in particular:

- it creates, approves and amends the association's rules of procedure;
- it rules on the admission of new members and on the exclusion of operator members;
- it approves the budgets and monitors their implementation;
- it approves the accounts of the closed financial year;
- where applicable, it names the statutory auditors, the holder and their substitute;
 - it rules on all programmes, conventions and contracts falling within the scope of the association and generally takes all decisions and measures associated with the purpose of the association;
 - it hires and dismisses salaried staff;
 - on the recommendation of the GI section concerned, it shall approve the proposed GI specification(s) and propose its approval or recognition to the official bodies concerned;
 - on the recommendation from the GI section concerned, it shall enter into an agreement with one or more conformity assessment control bodies duly accredited by the official bodies for the certification and monitoring of compliance with the specifications of the GI or GIs;
 - it designates its representatives to all bodies concerned with signs of origin, in particular to the association for the promotion and protection of geographical indications for industrial and craft products;
 - it may create specialist commissions made up of operator members and any other structures affected by the very purpose of the commission;
 - it may delegate particular missions to one or other of its members. The Board may hear any person likely to be able to add clarity to its deliberations.

EXECUTIVE

Article 10

The Board of Directors appoints an Executive from among its members, comprising:

- a President
- a vice-president
- a treasurer
- a secretary

The members of the Executive shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

The President, Vice-President and Treasurer are obligatorily operator members of GIs.

The treasurer monitors the state of the association's resources, draws up the association's annual accounts or has them drawn up under his supervision and submits a financial report to the General Meeting.

The Executive meets as often as necessary. Decisions of the Executive are taken based on the majority of members present or represented, who each have one vote. In the event of a tied vote, the President has the casting vote.

PRESIDENT

Article 11

The President is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Board of Directors and the Executive and in particular:

- he convenes the Board of Directors, the Executive and General Meetings. He sets their Agenda and presides over them;
- he implements the decisions taken by the Board of Directors and the Executive;
- he presents a president's report to the Annual General Meeting;
- he ensures external representation;
- he represents the association in legal proceedings, both as plaintiff and defendant, and in all civil acts.

He may not take legal action on behalf of the association without the agreement of the Board of Directors.

If the President is prevented from acting, he shall be replaced by the Vice-President.

SECRETARY

Article 12

The Secretary is responsible for summoning and drafting minutes, of the correspondence.

TREASURER

Article 13

The Treasurer monitors the resources of the Association, manages the accounts and presents a report on the financial situation to the General Meeting. Under the supervision of the President, he makes all payments and receives all sums; he proceeds, with the authorisation of the President, to the withdrawal, transfer and disposal of all properties and values.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Article 14

The Ordinary General Meeting comprises all members of the association who are up-to-date with payment of their subscriptions.

The General Secretary of the association takes part in General Meetings and has an advisory role.

Any member unable to attend may give a written mandate to another member of the same category: operator, associate, honorary member. No member may hold more than two proxies.

The Ordinary General Meeting may only validly deliberate when half of its members are present or represented. If this quorum is not reached, the General Meeting shall be reconvened at least 8 days later, with the same Agenda. This time, it can validly deliberate regardless of the number of members present.

Decisions shall be taken by simple majority of the votes cast.

The annual General Meeting shall meet when convened by the President, no later than 6 months after the end of the financial year (31 December).

Notices containing the agenda set by the President must be sent at least 15 days in advance.

The President of the association chairs the General Meeting called to hear the management report and the financial report.

The General Meeting votes on the subscription fees, on the proposal of the Board of Directors and particularly on the basis of its proposal relating to the performance of missions of general interest to the association, approves the accounts, grants discharge to the directors, deliberates on all points submitted to it by the Board of Directors and elects the members of the Board of Directors.

The General Assembly may hear any person likely to enlighten its deliberations.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Article 15

If necessary, or at the request of two thirds of the operator members up to date of their subscriptions, the President may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 10.

This meeting alone has the power to amend the statutes or to dissolve the association.

The conditions of composition, representation and quorum are identical to those defined for the Ordinary General Meeting. The decisions are taken by an absolute majority of the votes of the members present or represented.

FINANCIAL YEAR

Article 16

The financial year begins on 1st January and ends on 31 December.

ACCOUNTS – STATUTORY AUDITOR

Article 17

Accounting records shall be kept according to the accounting standards for associations, including the annual release of a balance sheet, income statement and, where appropriate, one or more annexes.

The annual accounts, as well as the corporate report, the financial report and, where applicable, the statutory auditor's report, shall be held available for consultation by all members throughout the 15 days preceding the date of the Ordinary General Meeting called to approve the accounts for the closed financial year.

Where appropriate, the Board of Directors may appoint a statutory auditor and a deputy auditor, registered on the list of statutory auditors of France.

The statutory auditors shall carry out their tasks in accordance with the standards and rules of the profession. They shall draw up and present a report to the General Meeting called to approve the accounts for the financial year ended, that covers their duties and certifies that the accounts are accurate and in order.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Article 18

A General Secretary is appointed by the Board of Directors.

The General Secretary shall perform administrative tasks for the association; in particular, sending out notices convening meetings, writing up the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive and the General Meeting, and in general all written documents concerning the operation of the association.

He is also responsible for the development of the association by participating in meetings, taking operational decisions and supervising its communication policy.

ALLOWANCES

Article 19

All elective offices are free and voluntary. Only expenses incurred in carrying out the mandate may be reimbursed on the basis of supporting documents in accordance with a scale and procedures laid down in the Rules of Procedure.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 20

The Board of Directors shall determine the rules of procedure and submit them to the next Ordinary General Meeting for approval.

The rules of procedure shall set out the various points and operating rules of the association not provided for in these statutes.

They are binding on all members in the same way as the statutes.

DISSOLUTION

Article 21

In the event of dissolution, the Extraordinary General Meeting shall appoint one or more liquidators responsible for liquidation operations. Once the liquidation procedure is complete, it shall determine how the net assets are to be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Law of 1 July 1901 and the Decree of 16 August 1901.

FORMALITIES

Article 22

The President, acting on behalf of the Executive, shall carry out the declaration and publication formalities as set forth by the Law of 1 July 1901 and the Decree of 16 August 1901.

The Board of Directors may appoint any person of its choosing to carry out the declaration and publication formalities under the terms of the Law of 1 July 1901 and the Decree of 16 August 1901.

These statutes were approved at the Constituent Assembly on 13 April 2017 and amended in the Extraordinary General Assembly of 11 March 2020 and the Board of Directors and the Extraordinary General Meeting of 7 July 2022.

They were drawn up in as many copies as there were interested parties, including one for the declaration and one for the association.

Saint Astier, 7 July 2022

The President

The Vice-President

Pierre LAPLACE

Bertrand IRIBARREN