The 15 ACX Rules

1 Human narration

- No text-to speech software
- All audiobooks must be read by a human.
- Audiobook listeners like to listen to human readers and software still isn't capable of replicating our communication skills yet.

2 One chapter or section per file

- Each chapter needs to have it's own file
- Example, if your book is has 10 chapters, you would need to create and submit 10 separate files.

3 No files longer than 120 minutes

- Your files can be a maximum length of 120 minutes or 2 hours.
- Most chapters are not this long.
- If you have a short story that isn't in a chapter format than runs longer than 2 hours, you'll need to break it up in to more than one file.

4   No files larger than 170 MB

- Files cannot be larger than 170 MB
- Most files will not be this long.
- You can check your file size by clicking on the file > Select File from menu > Properties (or Get Info)

5   Section headers and chapter titles

- If a chapter has a title or contains headings, you must read them when narrating.
- Follow the script.

6   Roomtone at head and tail

- 0.5 to 1 second of roomtone at beginning of track
- 1 to 5 seconds of roomtone at the end of track
- Roomtone = the sounds of the room when you're not speaking

7   Opening and closing credits

- You book must have opening and closing credits which list the title of the book, the author, narrator, and relevant copyright information.
- You can find credit info under the book's production tab.

8   Retail sample

- This is the sample customers can listen to on Audible before they buy an audiobook
- Under 5 minutes
- Usually first few minutes of first chapter
- No explicit content

9   Same channel format

- You must submit EITHER all mono or all stereo files
- ACX recommends recording in 1-Channel Mono

10 192kbps MP3

- You must submit your files to ACX in MP3 format.
- When you export, make sure that the quality is set to 192kbps.

11 Consistent sound and formatting

- The volume, tone, and formatting of your book should sound the same all the way through the book.
- Example: One chapter should not be drastically louder than another.

12 No extraneous sounds

- Remove pops, clicks, gross mouth sounds, and any other disruptive background noises.
- Using a pop filter can help prevent pops on your track.

13   Noise floor no higher than -60dB

- When you hear "noise floor" think "background noise."
- If you have fans, appliances, etc. running in the background, they can all add to your noise floor.
- Check noise floor with ACX Check plugin .
- Click here to download.

14   -23dB to -18dB RMS

- This is the average volume level of your track.
- RMS level must be between -23dB and -18dB
- Test RMS with ACX Check plugin
- Download plugin here.

15   Peak values must be less than -3dB

- Peak values are the loudest points on your track.
- The loudest points cannot exceed -3dB.
- You can test your peaks with the ACX Check plugin.
- Download plugin here.