



# Music Distribution Guidelines

To ensure timely release, online availability, and royalty generation for your music, meet the submission requirements below. Also, check the content guidelines of chosen streaming platforms and music stores for optimal exposure and success.

## Promoting Your Music

Paid 3rd-party services that guarantee streams aren't legitimate. Artificial streaming is detected by platforms and results in your music being removed from outlets and significant losses to artists and labels.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Artists/users must either be the original **copyright** holders of the submitted content and be prepared to show evidence if/when necessary or submit (to Support) a government-issued **photo ID** and **verifiable licenses** for each product containing the intellectual property of any other artist or entity.

## Ineligible Content

Content, as described below, may be disapproved, rejected, hidden from customers, fail to generate royalties, be removed from platforms without notice, result in a strike or block being applied by some platforms, and/or more. When content of this nature is identified, actions are taken as deemed appropriate.

Content that injures or **violates the rights** of any third party, including privacy, publicity, copyright, trademark, patent, or other intellectual property rights. These include sound-a-likes, slowed and reverbed versions or backing tracks of others' songs, unauthorized DJ/extended mixes and samples, ringtones, bootlegs (unofficial recordings in the form of radio broadcasts, live albums, rare/early/leaked recordings, interviews, etc.)

Use of **trademarked** artist names or titles,

**Misleading by mimicking** popular titles/names/content or search terms, cover versions, tributes or sound-alikes that are **misleading or confusing** to customers

**Public domain recordings**, unless delivered by the same partners who delivered the respective artist's recognized discography

**Karaoke** tracks with lead vocals or vocal versions, **Ringtones**

**Snippets** (small clips), unless intro/outro of an album

Unauthorized use of copyrighted music within generative AI music

Hate speech/music, pornography, content that glorifies harm or violence, **objectionable or inappropriate** content

Low **audio quality**, unless it is for clearly-artistic purposes

**Duplicate**/repeated submissions

**Production library** music (e.g. royalty-free or stock music), backing tracks, continuous clips of **noise** generators, sound/audio effects

Storytelling, speech, **spoken word** audio, **podcasts**, radio shows, album commentary, audiobooks (For podcast distribution [click here](#))

**Functional noise** recordings (such as nature sounds), **unless** they are in Dolby Atmos format and are **longer than 2 min.** in length

## Content Guidelines

### Audio Guidelines

Maximum duration of **silence** before/after the music must be less than 20 seconds

Audio must **not end abruptly**, such as midverse

Track **duration** must be at least 30 seconds and no longer than 30 minutes

Supported **formats** (select either Stereo or one of the Spatial Audio formats below)

a. Stereo:

AIF, AIFF, FLAC, MP3, M4A, OGG, WAV

up to 192 kHz, 16-bit, 24-bit

1 MB to 1 GB file size per track

b. Spatial Audio:

Dolby Atmos Music

Sony 360 Reality Audio

### Metadata Guidelines

#### Artist Names in Metadata

The **standard**, full artist name and proper spelling are required, no **additional information accepted**

Artists must be listed in the metadata and **credited** with the correct roles.

**Only artists** should be listed as artists of any role – not record labels, production houses, etc.

Artist names in metadata, on artwork, and on agreements must **match** exactly.

Cannot be **generic** words/terms (e.g. “singer”, “Christmas Hits”) or **genre** names (e.g. “relaxing jazz”, “workout”).

**Compound** artist names are not allowed, unless the official artist name or an official band (e.g. Simon & Garfunkel). Artist names should be entered separately otherwise.

Must not include an **alias or translation** in the same field. Translations are submitted separately.

## Titles in Metadata

Titles must not be **generic** (e.g. “Track 1,” “HipHop Instrumentals,” “Christmas Album,” “Children’s Songs”). Titles must not be **misleading or mimicking** popular content or including popular search terms, celebrity names, brand names, etc.

Titles should not include **additional info** (unless needed to identify the content), track numbers, unusual punctuation, release type, audio format info, etc.

Title formatting in a series should be consistent. **Part and Volume** should be abbreviated as “Pt.” and “Vol.” – titles should be formatted as “Title, Vol. x” and “Title, Pt. x” where x is a number. **Version** info (outside of originals) may be added to the end of a title, in parentheses.

Titles composed only of **special characters**, punctuation marks, or emoticons are not supported.

## Lyrics in Metadata

Lyrics should show only the lyrics/speech **heard** in the audio.

Lyrics should not include unusual punctuation, **additional info**, or translations.

Lyrics should not include special characters or letter substitutions to hide **explicit** words.

## Artwork Guidelines

Text on artwork is **optional**. The only text permitted on the artwork is **release title, artist name**, and (if applicable) label name. Artwork must not include additional info, roles/instruments, "produced by"/presents," track list, logos, barcodes, social-media info, production info, ads, audio format logos/info, release date, contact info, codes, URLs, etc.

Text on artwork, in metadata, on agreements must **match** exactly (language, spacing, etc.) If **one** main artist name is on the artwork, **the other** main artist name(s) should also be. If a **featured** artist is on the artwork, the **main** artist and other featured artist should also be on the artwork, artwork should not imply that a featured artist is the/a main artist

Artwork, or its images/logos/fonts, must **not infringe** on another entity’s copyrights/trademarks. Artwork must not be **low-quality, offensive, pornographic**, or include **advertising**, contact info, URLs, QR codes, barcodes, addresses, or any other additional information.

Artwork must not be **misleading**

Artwork must be **unique** to the release. If an image is to be reused, then a unique release title is required on the image.

Formatting requirements:

**Format:** JPG, JPEG, PNG, BMP, TIF, TIFF, or GIF

**Dimensions:** minimum 1400 x 1400 px, maximum 4000 x 4000 px

**File size:** minimum 100 KB, maximum 10 MB per image

## Categorization Guidelines

### Explicit Content

If audio, artwork, or title contain explicit content, **“Explicit” must be selected** in the metadata of those tracks.

The **standard Parental Advisory Label** may be added to the artwork of releases including explicit content, but should not be present in the absence of explicit content.

### Language

The **predominant** language in the audio should be selected for each track.

### Instrumental or Containing Lyrics

Tracks **without** lyrics/speech should be indicated as **instrumental**.

If a track **contains** lyrics/speech, instrumental should **not** be selected.

### Genre

Only **one to four** of the most accurate genre labels should be selected.

### Outlets guidelines

For additional information please see the outlets’ content policies below:

[Spotify](#)

[Apple](#)

[Content ID](#)

Amazon Music: Content Quality Policy:

The following content policy applies globally to all Amazon Music territories, and content providers. We recognize there may occasionally be justified exceptions, which can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. These policies are subject to change.

	A	B
1	<b>Content Type</b>	<b>Policy Description</b>
2	<b>Bootlegs</b>	We do not permit unofficial recordings such as Radio Broadcasts, Live Albums, Rare/Early/Leaked Recordings, Interviews, and other releases commonly classified as “Bootlegs”, unless they are delivered to us by the same partners who delivered the respective artist’s recognized discography.
3	<b>Public Domain Recordings</b>	We do not permit Public Domain (“PD”) recordings unless delivered by the same partners who delivered the respective artist’s recognized discography. ( <i>“PD” is defined as recordings which have fallen out of copyright protection in specific territories.</i> )

**4 Misleading Metadata** We do not permit content that misleads customers by mimicking popular titles or common search

terms. This includes content that contains images, artist names, album titles, or song titles that are identical or similar to other well-known entities.

For example:

1. Content featuring artist names in metadata where the artist is not a collaborator on the track or album (including slightly edited versions of popular artist names).
2. Illegitimate use of well-known song/album/artist names in track or album titles.
3. Artist, album or track titles containing references to popular movies, books, theatre productions, video games, social media, TV shows, or other cultural brands, franchises or characters, unless published by an established rights holder of the same.
4. Use of artist image or likeness on cover art where the artist does not feature on the tracks within the release.

5	<b>Generic Artists</b>	We do not permit content where generic words or genre names are used as the artist name. e.g., “sleep sounds”, “top hits”, “relaxing jazz”, “white noise”, “Christmas”, “hip-hop”, “meditation music”.
6	<b>Illegal Content</b>	We do not permit publishing of content within territories where publishing such content violates the applicable territory’s laws/regulations. For example, we do not permit cover art containing banned symbols in Germany.
7	<b>Advertising</b>	We do not permit content with advertising references contained within the cover art, metadata or audio. Content must not contain advertising search terms or keywords, URLs, logos, or any promotional information about future product releases.
8	<b>Karaoke Versions/Ringtones</b>	We do not permit karaoke recordings (unless they are backing tracks with no vocals, and they use “karaoke” as the primary genre) or music albums with ringtones as tracks.
9	<b>Misleading Sound-alikes / Cover Versions</b>	We do not permit cover versions, tributes or sound-alikes that are misleading or confusing to customers.
10	<b>Sped up / edited versions of popular content</b>	We do not permit sped-up, slowed-down or altered versions of pre-existing content unless sent as an authorized remix.
11	<b>Duplicate Album Artwork / Metadata</b>	We do not permit content where the same or very slightly altered album artwork and/or metadata is being repeated across multiple releases for different artists.
12	<b>Track Count Limit</b>	We do not permit albums containing more than 300 tracks.

**13 Manipulated Track Durations** We do not permit content where track durations are shortened without a valid stylistic or aesthetic reason.

**14 Royalty Collection Society References in Metadata** content eligibility for commercial use, within metadata or cover art.  
We do not permit any reference to royalty collection societies (such as GEMA in Germany), or any promotion or indication of

**15 Low Audio and Metadata Quality** We do not permit content that does not meet our:

- 1) Audio quality standards (e.g., clean clear sound, the sound you expect to hear) unless it is for clearly artistic purposes.
- 2) Metadata style standards (e.g., artist names with correct spellings, formatting, band name, instrument, birth and death date inclusions, correct genres, etc.).

## Meta Sound Recording & Reference File Policy:

### Policy Contents

- Policy Overview
- Sound Recordings & Reference Files Policy
- Music Catalog & Content Policy

### Policy Overview

This policy sets out the requirements for delivering music assets to Rights Manager and Meta's music products. Unlike other music services, Meta supports multiple music experiences across products which require strict asset compliance to make them operable.

### Sound Recording and Reference File Policy

Meta uses licensed music in two key ways:

- Sound recording reference files which match against music in user uploaded content
- Music which is discoverable and made available for use in Meta products via Audio Library

To ensure that music is correctly matched and made available in product, rightsholders must only deliver sound reference files and Audio Library content in which they own and/or control exclusive rights for the applicable territories.

Failure to comply with this requirement could result in:

- Reference conflicts in Rights Manager
- Ineligible content cases in Rights Manager
- Poor in-product user discovery experiences
- Inaccurate reporting and usage data

Reference files uploaded to Rights Manager and/or offered in Meta music products must meet all of the following content standards. Any reference files that do not meet these standards may be subject to ineligible content enforcement penalties, such as: preventing matching, demonetization or deletion.

### Ineligible Content Types

Meta classifies Ineligible Content as sound recordings that are not music, music that is not sufficiently distinct from other reference files, and/or music that is not owned or controlled by the rightsholder. Ineligible Content types include:

#### 1. Content that is not music

Where the Sound Recording does not embody a musical composition / musical work and incorrectly matches with user generated content.

- 1.1 Sound Effects (SFX)

A sound effect (or audio effect) is a live or artificially created or enhanced sound which contains no melodic or harmonic content associated with a musical work.

- 1.2 Spoken Word / Speech

Sound Recordings that consist entirely of voice or dialogue that does not carry a melody.

- 1.3 Podcasts / Radio Shows / Album Commentary

Recorded interviews, description or programming, inclusive and exclusive of musical content.

## 2. Music that is unauthorized for distribution

Sound Recordings, seeking to imitate and infringe on the original copyright of musical works and recordings

- 2.1 Sound-a-likes

Sound-a-likes are recorded works, seeking to imitate and infringe on the original copyright of musical works and recordings; for example a recording made available using the name or likeness of the original artist, where the sound-a-like artist is “passing themselves off” as the original artist or a recording titled in a manner which implies that the sound-a-like is authorized or recorded by the rightsholder label, an affiliate or the original artist. This is not to be confused with covers that are produced and distributed under license of the original copyright owner.

- 2.2 Illegitimate Tracks

Content that likely infringes the rights of others by using their sound recordings either in its entirety or a section of the original track without licensing or owning the rights to that original composition. This includes slowed down, reverbed, sped up, sampled versions, and unauthorized use within generative AI music.

- 2.3 Unauthorized DJ & Extended Mixes

Mixes of unauthorized content that is made up of multiple distinct sound recordings played sequentially.

## 3. Music that is ineligible for monetization

Where the sound recording is not sufficiently distinct from other reference files and Rights Manager is unable to accurately match and report these assets back to rightsholders.

- 3.1 Production Library Music

A.k.a, stock music; licensed for use in film, television, radio or online. Including soundbeds, incidental scores, production loops, royalty free music, non-exclusively licensed (for a fee or gratis), with the intention of being used as background music for user generated content. Original scores and soundtracks are excluded from this category.

- 3.2 Public Domain

A work is considered to be within the public domain if the publishing (composition) and the sound recording (master) copyrights have expired and can be used, modified or reworked without the need of a license.

- 3.3 Insufficiently Distinct Recordings

Recordings where the music is insufficiently distinct from other legitimate sound recordings or where recordings of public domain compositions are indistinguishable.

- 3.4 Ambient, Meditation, Yoga or Sleep Music

Sound Recordings created using soundscapes and sound effects with little to no melody intended to be used as background music in spas, meditation and public spaces.

- 3.5 Karaoke Recordings

Backing tracks of popular records recreated by a different rightsholder with most, if not all, vocal and lyrical content removed. This category includes Karaoke tracks delivered by the original copyright owner and excludes Instrumental versions of tracks.

### **Detection and Resolution**

If Meta determines that the majority of a label’s (or sub-label’s) catalog is Ineligible Content, that label (or sub-label) may be subject to

Meta's Ineligible Content enforcement policies, without prior notice, which may include (i) deleting all of such label's (or sub-label's) content, (ii) preventing such label (or sub-label) from matching any of its content to user content, (iii) demonetizing such label's (or sub-label's) content, and/or (iv) not ingesting such label's (or sub-label's) content on a going forward basis.

## Music Catalog & Content Policies

### Meta's Policies

All licensed content and user uploaded content are subject to [Meta's Community Standards](#). As an extension of Meta's Community Standards, music delivery to Rights Manager must not:

- Contain content that can contribute to real world harm
- Contain personally identifiable information
- Encourage, praise, support or promote
  - hate speech
  - sexual exploitation of adults, or child exploitation of any kind
- Contain content that poses any off-platform risk to users or protected groups

#### How Meta creates safe spaces

- Detection and elimination of this type content is a semi-automated process, combining Meta classifiers alongside manual review.
- Meta policy teams will work in tandem with music cross-functional teams to assess the "main takeaway" of a song and determine if a violation is present, considering certain signals and counter-signals in this review.
- Content that is designated as harmful under these policies will be blocked from use across the platform and escalated back to partners.
  - Partners who consistently deliver content that breaches these policies will be escalated to our internal partnerships and integrity teams for further action.

#### Signals of potential violations

- Possible signals of policy violations:
  - Majority of the song's content is about sexual exploitation of adults, child exploitation, inciting violence or hate speech
  - Glorifying or inciting harmful, abusive, or violent behaviors
  - The name of the track, artist, or album is a direct reference to an abuse area
  - The album art contains nudity
- Possible counter-signals:
  - Public statements from the artists or associated music video content that indicates it is meant as humor, satire, or as a counter-message

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