NLS has very specific guidelines that can be cited:

**Art and Science of Audio Book Production - Issued September 1995: Evaluation of Narration**

…

*The narration is free of strained, unclear, inconsistent or overplayed accents, dialects, or character interpretations.*

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/other/audioart/evaluation.html>

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/other/audioart/allinone.html>

… and a document I have a digital copy of but which I can’t find on the NLS website:

NLS Engineering Section Advisory Document

**CRITERIA FOR JUDGING NARRATION**

This advisory document was prepared for the NLS Engineering Section by:

Bill West, Audio Book Production Specialist / July 22, 1996

…

4. Narration of the text

*The criteria for judging narration of the text include, but are not restricted to, the following:*

*…*

*f. the narration shall make effective use of the speech art skills that are most appropriate for avoiding character interpretations, dialects, and accents that are strained, unclear, inconsistent, or overplayed*

I’ve always heard this expressed as: we should strive to approve narrators with little or no regional accents.

However, this can be significantly constraining and I know several of our local Texas narrators have thicker accents than I would prefer. That said, as others have indicated, you can focus those narrators with specific regional accents towards appropriate titles.

- SMiles Lewis

[Volunteer Recording Studio](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/vrs.html)

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