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Test cases for transactional SMS in the Sandbox: wrong numbers, long texts, no credits, repeats

WhatsApp & APIs

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Test cases for transactional SMS in the Sandbox: wrong numbers, long texts, no credits, repeats

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The short answer: with a `sandbox_` key, the API checks every request and answers as it would in Production, but **no SMS goes out and nothing is charged**: the status comes back `simulated` and the answer carries the `X-API-Simulated: true` header. It is the right place to prove, one by one, the cases your system will meet every day, including the wrong ones.

The cases to test

Case	What to send	What should come back
Normal send	A valid number and a short text	`201`, status `simulated`, with `parts` and `encoding`
Wrong number	For example `12`	`422`, `invalid_number`
No text	An empty `text` field	`422`, `text_required`
Text too long	More than 1,600 characters	`422`, `text_too_long`
Text with accents	The same notice with «ã» or «ç»	More `parts` and a different `encoding`: check the cost
Sender not approved	A `sender` that has not been approved	`422`, `sender_not_approved`
Identical retry	The same request with the same `Idempotency-Key`	The same answer, with `Idempotent-Replayed: true`
Same key, different text	The same `Idempotency-Key` with another body	`409`, `idempotency_conflict`

Case	What to send	What should come back
Scheduled in the past	`send_at` set to a date that has passed	`422` , `send_at_in_past`
Key without permission	A key without `sms:write`	`403` , `insufficient_scope`

Each case should trigger the right reaction in your system: store the `id` , do not retry a `422` , alert the team. If it reacts badly in the Sandbox, it will react badly in Production.

Keeping tests out of Production

1. **Send the `X-API-Mode: sandbox` header in your tests.** If the key is not a Sandbox key, the API refuses with `mode_mismatch` instead of sending.
2. **Check the key's mode** with `GET /v1/token` : the `mode` field says `sandbox` or `production` .
3. **Keep the two keys in separate places** (test settings and production settings), never in the code.

> **What the Sandbox cannot show you:**
> How the message looks on the phone. Before opening up to customers, make one real Production send to your own number and check the sender, the parts and the text. And remember: a `sandbox_` key reads real account data, such as the balance, so guard it just as carefully.

Going to Production

Create a `prod_` key with the minimum permissions in the API Center in Meu MozOut and swap it into your settings: the request is identical, only the prefix changes. If `GET /v1/token` shows `writes_simulated` as `true` , the API is still in preparation and sends remain simulated. Keep a close eye on the history and the **statistics** in the first few days.

RECOMMENDED

Want to start testing today without spending credits? See Transactional SMS.

See Transactional SMS →

SEE ALSO

- Sending SMS through the API: key, permissions, Sandbox and your first request
- SMS API errors and message statuses: what each one means and what to do
- A reusable send-SMS function in PHP, Python or Node.js, with timeouts and error handling
- Tracking each transactional SMS: the message id, masked numbers, statuses and charged
- Sent a transactional SMS with a mistake: what you can undo and how to send the correction
- Timeouts, retries and idempotency: how not to charge a customer twice

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