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API Sandbox or Production: what each key really does, and moving your program to production

WhatsApp & APIs

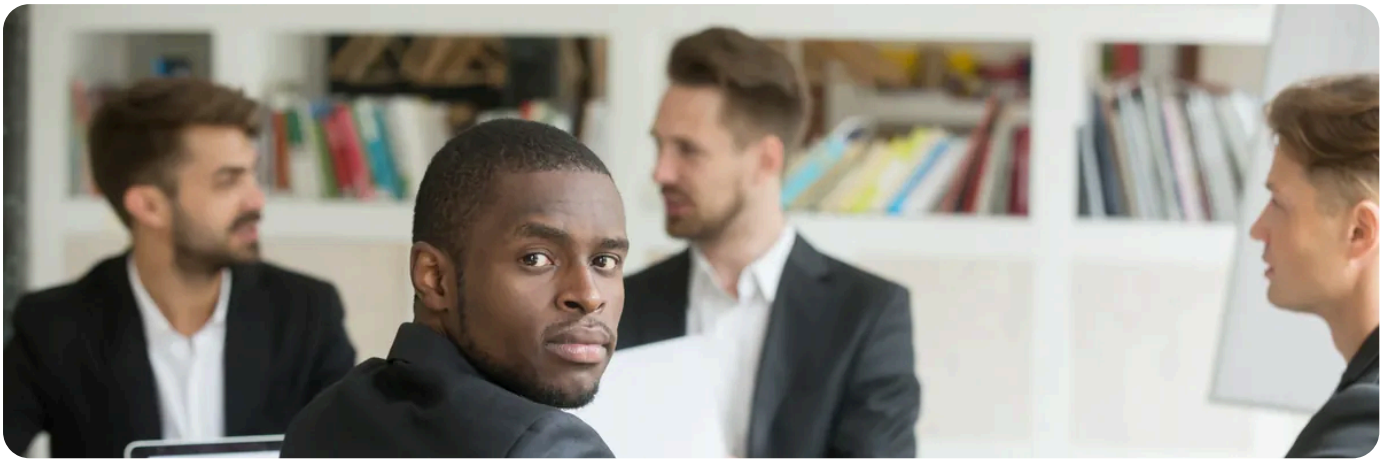
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API Sandbox or Production: what each key really does, and moving your program to production

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The short answer: the address and the operations are the same in both modes: **the key decides**. A `sandbox_` key reads your real account data, but changes are **simulated** and **never charged**. A `prod_` key reads and really changes the account. Going live means swapping the key.

The two modes side by side

	Sandbox (`sandbox_`)	Production (`prod_`)
Reads	Real account data	Real account data
Changes	Simulated	Change the account
Charges	Never	Yes, from credit, within the spending limit
`X-API-Mode` **header in the answer**	`sandbox`	`production`
What it is for	Building and testing without risk	Your finished program

Sandbox does not mean play data.
A `sandbox_` key reads your real domains, invoices and contacts. Guard it as carefully as a Production key.

How to tell an answer was simulated

1. **Every answer to a keyed request** carries the `X-API-Mode` header, with `sandbox` or `production`.

2. **Simulated writes** also carry `X-API-Simulated: true`.

3. **The** `mode` field of `GET /v1/token` gives the key's mode, and `writes_simulated` says whether writes are being simulated.

What the Sandbox simulates, area by area

Area	With a Sandbox key
Domains and extras	The purchase does not happen, and the answer says whether your credit would cover it and whether it fits the spending limit.
Invoices	`credit_sufficient` and `within_spending_limit` say whether the payment would go through. Nothing is charged.
Hosting and e-mail	The API checks the request but does not reach the server. Anything that depends on the server, such as whether something already exists, is only checked in Production.
VPS servers	No server is touched. The root password returned is not real.
Support	No ticket is created, and the `id` comes back as `null`.
SMS	The message is validated, but it is not sent and uses no credits.

One important exception: the protections for the account e-mail domain (the `409 account_email_domain`) apply **in Sandbox too**, so your test shows what will happen in Production.

While the API is in preparation

At this stage **not even** `prod_` **keys change the account or charge**: writes are simulated and `writes_simulated` is `true`. Keys created during the preparation, in either mode, are revoked when the API opens, and the account owner gets a notice by e-mail. After that, create new keys.

Moving your program to Production

1. **Test everything in Sandbox**, errors included: a key without permission, not enough credit, an invalid domain name.

2. **Create a** `prod_` **key** on the **API page in Meu MozOut**, with minimal permissions, a sensible spending limit and, if you can, an IP list.

3 **Swap the key in your program.** In the request, the prefix is the only difference.

4 **Send the** `X-API-Mode: production` **header** with your requests. If the key is not in that mode, the API refuses with `invalid_request` and the reason `mode_mismatch`, so your program never runs with the wrong key.

```
curl https://api.mozout.co.mz/v1/domains -H "Authorization: Bearer $RLX_API_KEY" -H "X-API-Mode: production"
```

Some areas keep separate limits in Sandbox.
For hosting and servers, requests with a `sandbox_` key do not use up the Production limits. The other limits are in **the API request limits**.

RECOMMENDED

Always start in the Sandbox: create a sandbox_ key and test your program without touching the account or spending credit.

Create a key →

SEE ALSO

- **Creating an API key: name, mode, permissions, validity, IP list and spending limit** →
- **Our API in one page: what you can automate in your account, area by area** →
- **API request limits: per key, per account and per task, the headers and what to do after a 429** →
- **Our API's error codes: what each one means, and which ones are worth retrying** →
- **Sensitive API permissions and the spending limit: paying, buying, reinstalling, cPanel access** →
- **Looking after your API keys: one per program, expiry, revoking and replacing a key** →

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