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A reusable send-SMS function in PHP, Python or Node.js, with timeouts and error handling

WhatsApp & APIs

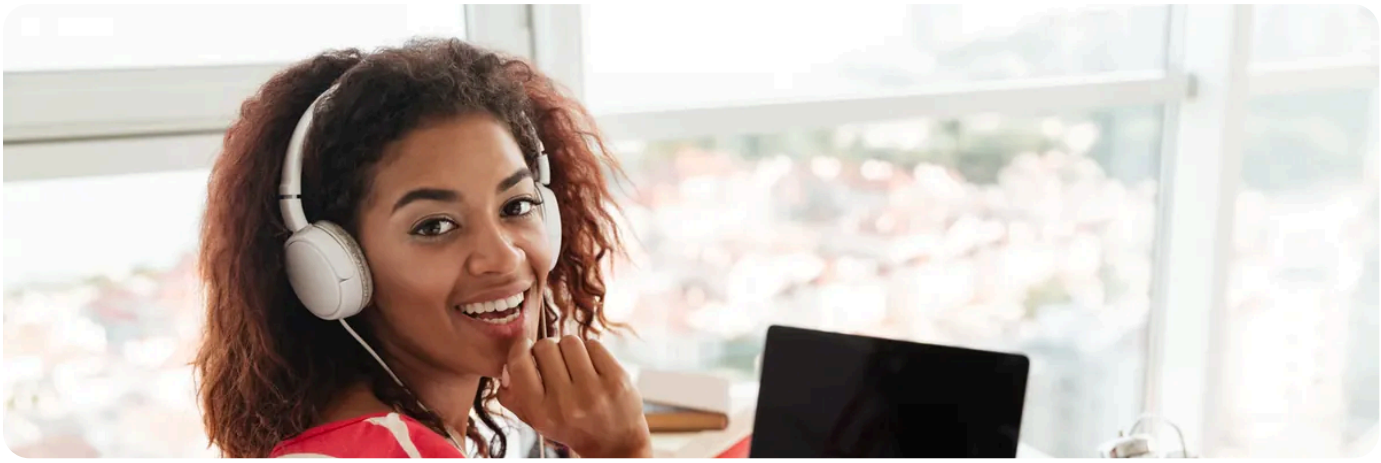
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https://www.meu.interweb.co.mz/knowledgebase/2602

A reusable send-SMS function in PHP, Python or Node.js, with timeouts and error handling

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The short answer: write **one function** that sends the SMS and use it everywhere in your system. It takes the number, the text and an event key, reads the API key from an environment variable, has a **timeout**, always sends an `Idempotency-Key` and returns the HTTP code and the answer. The retry decision lives in one place: retry with a pause on a `429` or `5xx`, never on a `422`.

In PHP

```
function send_sms($number, $text, $event_key) {
$ch = curl_init('https://api.interweb.co.mz/v1/sms/messages');
curl_setopt_array($ch, [
CURLOPT_RETURNTRANSFER => true,
CURLOPT_POST => true,
CURLOPT_TIMEOUT => 30,
CURLOPT_HTTPHEADER => [
'Authorization: Bearer ' . getenv('SMS_API_KEY'),
'Content-Type: application/json',
'Idempotency-Key: ' . $event_key,
],
CURLOPT_POSTFIELDS => json_encode(['number' => $number, 'text' => $text]),
]);
$body = curl_exec($ch);
$http = curl_getinfo($ch, CURLINFO_HTTP_CODE);
curl_close($ch);
return [$http, json_decode((string) $body, true)];
}
```

In Python

```
import os, requests

def send_sms(number, text, event_key):
r = requests.post(
"https://api.interweb.co.mz/v1/sms/messages",
headers={"Authorization": "Bearer " + os.environ["SMS_API_KEY"],
"Idempotency-Key": event_key},
json={"number": number, "text": text},
timeout=30,
)
return r.status_code, r.json()
```

In Node.js

```
async function sendSms(number, text, eventKey) {
const r = await fetch("https://api.interweb.co.mz/v1/sms/messages", {
method: "POST",
headers: { "Authorization": "Bearer " + process.env.SMS_API_KEY,
"Content-Type": "application/json",
"Idempotency-Key": eventKey },
body: JSON.stringify({ number: number, text: text }),
signal: AbortSignal.timeout(30000),
});
return [r.status, await r.json()];
}
```

The `event_key` is what makes retries safe: something like `payment-3381` or `order-8812-shipped`. With the same value and the same body, the API returns the stored answer instead of sending again.

What to do with the answer

Code	What to do
201	Store the `id` and `status` with the event. Done.
422	Do not retry. Read `details.reason` (for example `invalid_number` or `insufficient_credits`) and fix it or alert someone on your team.
401 and 403	Do not retry. The key is missing, wrong or expired, lacks the `sms:write` permission, the IP is not on its list, or the account has no active SMS service (`sms_reseller_required`).

Code	What to do
409	The same event key with a different text, or the first request still running. Wait and retry unchanged, or use a new key if it really is another send.
429, 500, 502, 503	Retry later with the same event key. On a 429, wait at least as long as the `Retry-After` header says.
No answer (timeout)	Retry with the same event key: if the first request got through, the API does not send a second SMS.

Do not send the SMS inside the customer's request.
If your payment page waits for the SMS API, any delay in the SMS delays the payment. Put the send in a queue or a background job, and let the function retry there.

Keep the `correlation_id` of any error
(it is in the answer and in the `X-Correlation-ID` header). If you need help, support will ask for it, with the time and the operation. Your API key, on the other hand, is never sent to anyone.

RECOMMENDED

Ready to connect your system? Create a Sandbox key and start with 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** →
- **Timeouts, retries and idempotency: how not to charge a customer twice** →
- **Test cases for transactional SMS in the Sandbox: wrong numbers, long texts, no credits, repeats** →
- **Tracking each transactional SMS: the message id, masked numbers, statuses and charged** →
- **An API key or token has leaked: what to do, in the right order** →

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