

SMS REST API



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We recognise how much easier it is to get things done with your suppliers and partners if you know who to talk to. If you have any queries or would like additional information, please contact:

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Version history

Revision number	Revision Date	Author	Changes
1.0	2018-02-22	Barrett	Initial document release
1.1	2018-02-27	Jon	Formatting Updates

Introduction

This document provides instructions on how to use our REST API to send a message to one or multiple recipients. JSON (application/json) is the content type of both requests and responses. Requests with invalid JSON will be rejected. All API communication should be done over HTTPS protocol to minimize security risks.

HTTP Status Codes

Status	Description
200 OK	Request was successful
400 Bad Request	The request doesn't conform to the API. The request body should provide more information.
401 Unauthorized	Authentication is invalid
404 Not Found	The path is invalid
500 Internal Server Error	An unexpected error has occurred, and the request wasn't processed.
503 Service Unavailable	The service is unable to perform the request at this point

Authentication

The header is constructed as follows:

- Username and password is combined into a string: `username:password`
- That string is then encoded to Base64 format
- Authorization method and space is put before the encoded string: `"Basic "`

:: Example

String to encode: 'username:password'

Encoded string: 'dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ='

Authorization header: 'Basic dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ='

Send SMS

:: Resource

<https://restapi.gsm.co.za/send/sms>

:: Request Parameters

Property	Type	Description
<i>to</i>	array_string	An array of destination numbers. If you want to send to one destination, a single string is supported instead of an array.
<i>message</i>	string	Message text
<i>ems</i>	Boolean	Enables EMS

:: Request examples

Single destination:

JSON

```
POST /send/sms HTTP/1.1
Host: restapi.gsm.co.za
Authorization: Basic dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ=
Content-Type: application/json
Accept: application/json

{
  "to": "27721234567",
  "message": "This is a text message",
  "ems": "0"
}
```

Multiple destinations:

JSON

```
POST /send/sms HTTP/1.1
Host: restapi.gsm.co.za
Authorization: Basic dXNlcm5hbWU6cGFzc3dvcmQ=
Content-Type: application/json
Accept: application/json

{
  "to": [
    "27721234567",
    "27821234567"
  ],
  "message": "This is a text message",
  "ems": "0"
}
```

:: Response Parameters

Property	Type	Description
<i>Action</i>	string	Result of what the SMS gateway did with the message. Either "enqueued" or "not enqueued".
<i>Key</i>	string	The reference assigned to the message in the sent logs.
<i>Result</i>	int	A value indicating success (1) or failure (0)
<i>Number</i>	string	Destination Number
<i>Error</i>	int	The error parameter is zero unless the result is zero. Refer to the error codes section for definitions.

:: Response Examples

Single destination:

200 OK

```
{
  "Action": "enqueued",
  "Key": "xxx.yyyyyyyy",
  "Result": "1",
  "Number": "27721234567",
  "Error": "0"
}
```

Multiple destinations:

This also applies to an EMS message to one destination, as they are delivered in separate parts.

200 OK

```
[
  {
    "Action": "enqueued",
    "Key": "xxx.yyyyyyyy",
    "Result": "1",
    "Number": "27721234567",
    "Error": "0"
  },
  {
    "Action": "enqueued",
    "Key": "xxx.yyyyyyyy",
    "Result": "1",
    "Number": "27821234567",
    "Error": "0"
  }
]
```

Error Codes

If the response from the service has an action property of "not queued" and the result property of "0", the error code property will be one of the following values:

Code	Definition
153	Not enough credits to send SMS.
154	Attempted to submit an invalid number (format or banned).
155	Duplicate message submitted within the last 15 minutes.
156	There is no routing available for the destination number, which is usually due to an invalid number being submitted.

It's best to base logic on the error code accordingly. For example, resubmitting a message when the previous action status was "not queued" due to not enough credits won't solve the problem.

Phone Number Format

It's suggested that you follow the E.164 number formatting standard:

- All numbers are standardized to a 15-digit maximum length
- Numbers are prefixed with a +, followed by country code, network code, and subscriber number

Numbers that aren't formatted this way may work. More information on this standard can be found here:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E.164>

Duplicate Checking

Our system attempts to block duplicate SMSs from being sent within a 15-minute rolling window. Due to the complexities involved, it is not guaranteed, and understand that the onus is on you to ensure that no duplicates are submitted to the SMS gateway.

Supported Characters

To fit in with most providers, we use the GSM 03.38 character set. The visible characters in the extension table are supported, but note that an extra character is required for escaping. More information on the character set is available here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSM_03.38

EMS

The maximum length for an SMS is 160 characters. Exceeding that will result in the message being segmented and charged accordingly if the EMS parameter is used. If the message length is exceeded and the EMS parameter is not used, the message will be truncated to 160 characters.

While the networks do support up to 2000 characters, we recommend keeping it to 1000 or less. Every segment of an EMS will be billed as an SMS. For example, one EMS message that consists of two segments will be billed as two SMSs.

Support

We've tried to put all the information we could in this Guide, but we are sure you'll have some questions.

If you would like to chat to us, please call us on **087 55 00 200** and we'll help you out as best we can.

Please also visit our website at www.vodacommessaging.co.za where you may log a support query.