Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - Axles are defined by a central shaft which rotates a wheel or a gear. The axle on wheeled vehicles may be connected to the wheels and turned along with them. In this particular instance, bushings or bearings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. On the other hand, the axle could be attached to its surroundings and the wheels could in turn revolve around the axle. In this particular instance, a bearing or bushing is located in the hole in the wheel so as to allow the wheel or gear to revolve around the axle.

With cars and trucks, the word axle in several references is utilized casually. The word generally refers to the shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself rotates together with the wheel. It is usually bolted in fixed relation to it and referred to as an 'axle' or an 'axle shaft'. It is also true that the housing surrounding it which is usually known as a casting is also known as an 'axle' or occasionally an 'axle housing.' An even broader definition of the term means every transverse pair of wheels, whether they are connected to one another or they are not. Therefore, even transverse pairs of wheels in an independent suspension are frequently known as 'an axle.'

In a wheeled motor vehicle, axles are an important part. With a live-axle suspension system, the axles function to transmit driving torque to the wheel. The axles likewise maintain the position of the wheels relative to one another and to the motor vehicle body. In this system the axles must even be able to bear the weight of the motor vehicle plus any load. In a non-driving axle, like the front beam axle in several two-wheel drive light vans and trucks and in heavy-duty trucks, there would be no shaft. The axle in this particular condition works just as a steering component and as suspension. Many front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

There are other types of suspension systems wherein the axles work just to transmit driving torque to the wheels. The angle and position of the wheel hubs is a function of the suspension system. This is often found in the independent suspension found in the majority of new sports utility vehicles, on the front of many light trucks and on the majority of brand new cars. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have attached axle housing tubes. It could be fixed to the vehicle body or frame or even could be integral in a transaxle. The axle shafts then transmit driving torque to the wheels. The shafts in an independent suspension system are like a full floating axle system as in they do not support the motor vehicle weight.

Last but not least, with regards to a vehicle, 'axle,' has a more vague definition. It means parallel wheels on opposing sides of the vehicle, regardless of their mechanical connection kind to one another and the vehicle frame or body.