Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - The description of an axle is a central shaft meant for rotating a wheel or a gear. Where wheeled vehicles are concerned, the axle itself can be attached to the wheels and rotate along with them. In this case, bushings or bearings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. Conversely, the axle can be connected to its surroundings and the wheels could in turn rotate all-around the axle. In this situation, a bearing or bushing is placed in the hole in the wheel to be able to enable the wheel or gear to turn around the axle.

When referring to trucks and cars, some references to the word axle co-occur in casual usage. Generally, the word refers to the shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself turns with the wheel. It is normally 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 called a casting is likewise referred to as an 'axle' or sometimes an 'axle housing.' An even broader sense of the word means every transverse pair of wheels, whether they are connected to one another or they are not. Hence, even transverse pairs of wheels in an independent suspension are often known as 'an axle.'

The axles are an important component in a wheeled vehicle. The axle serves to be able to transmit driving torque to the wheel in a live-axle suspension system. The position of the wheels is maintained by the axles relative to one another and to the vehicle body. In this system the axles must also be able to support the weight of the motor vehicle along with 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 situation works just as a steering part and as suspension. Lots of front wheel drive cars consist of a solid rear beam axle.

There are different kinds of suspension systems wherein the axles serve just to transmit driving torque to the wheels. The position and angle of the wheel hubs is a function of the suspension system. This is normally seen in the independent suspension seen in the majority of new SUV's, on the front of many light trucks and on nearly all new cars. These systems still have a differential but it does not have connected axle housing tubes. It could be attached to the motor vehicle body or frame or also 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.

The motor vehicle axle has a more ambiguous classification, meaning that the parallel wheels on opposing sides of the motor vehicle, regardless of their type of mechanical connection to one another.