Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - The classification of an axle is a central shaft utilized for rotating a gear or a wheel. Where wheeled motor vehicles are concerned, the axle itself may be connected to the wheels and rotate together with them. In this instance, bearings or bushings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. Conversely, the axle could be fixed to its surroundings and the wheels could in turn turn around the axle. In this situation, a bushing or bearing is located inside the hole inside the wheel to enable the wheel or gear to rotate around the axle.

With cars and trucks, the term axle in some references is utilized casually. The term generally refers to the shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself revolves with the wheel. It is usually bolted in fixed relation to it and called an 'axle shaft' or an 'axle.' It is equally true that the housing around it that is usually referred to as a casting is also called an 'axle' or occasionally an 'axle housing.' An even broader sense of the term 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 frequently called 'an axle.'

The axles are an essential part in a wheeled vehicle. The axle works 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 motor vehicle body. In this system the axles must also be able to support the weight of the motor vehicle along with whichever load. In a non-driving axle, as in the front beam axle in some two-wheel drive light vans and trucks and in heavy-duty trucks, there will be no shaft. The axle in this condition serves only as a steering part and as suspension. Various front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

The axle works just to transmit driving torque to the wheels in various types of suspension systems. The position and angle of the wheel hubs is part of the operating of the suspension system seen in the independent suspensions of newer sports utility vehicles and on the front of several brand new cars and light trucks. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have attached axle housing tubes. It can be attached to the vehicle frame or body or likewise can 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 vague definition, meaning that the parallel wheels on opposing sides of the motor vehicle, regardless of their kind of mechanical connection to one another.