Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - Axles are defined by a central shaft that turns a gear or a wheel. The axle on wheeled vehicles could be attached to the wheels and rotated along with them. In this situation, bearings or bushings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. On the other hand, the axle could be connected to its surroundings and the wheels may in turn rotate all-around the axle. In this particular case, a bushing or bearing is located within the hole within the wheel to enable the gear or wheel to revolve all-around the axle.

With trucks and cars, the word axle in several references is used casually. The term usually means shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself revolves along with the wheel. It is frequently bolted in fixed relation to it and known as an 'axle shaft' or an 'axle.' It is equally true that the housing surrounding it which is normally referred to as a casting is otherwise known as an 'axle' or at times an 'axle housing.' An even broader sense of the word means every transverse pair of wheels, whether they are attached to one another or they are not. Hence, even transverse pairs of wheels inside an independent suspension are frequently referred to as 'an axle.'

The axles are an essential part in a wheeled vehicle. The axle works 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 motor vehicle body. In this particular system the axles should likewise be able to bear the weight of the motor vehicle together with whatever load. In a non-driving axle, like the front beam axle in some two-wheel drive light trucks and vans 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. Various front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

There are other kinds of suspension systems wherein the axles work only to transmit driving torque to the wheels. The angle and position of the wheel hubs is a function of the suspension system. This is usually found in the independent suspension seen in most new sports utility vehicles, on the front of many light trucks and on the majority of new cars. These systems still have a differential but it does not have attached axle housing tubes. It can be fixed to the vehicle frame or body 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.

Lastly, in reference to a vehicle, 'axle,' has a more vague classification. It means parallel wheels on opposing sides of the motor vehicle, regardless of their mechanical connection type to one another and the motor vehicle frame or body.