

Steer Axle for Forklift

Forklift Steer Axle - The definition of an axle is a central shaft utilized for turning a gear or a wheel. Where wheeled vehicles are concerned, the axle itself may be connected to the wheels and revolve with them. In this particular situation, bearings or bushings 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 all-around the axle. In this instance, a bearing or bushing is placed within the hole within the wheel so as to allow the gear or wheel to turn around the axle.

If referring to trucks and cars, several references to the word axle co-occur in casual usage. Usually, the word means 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' or an 'axle shaft'. It is equally true that the housing surrounding it which is normally called a casting is otherwise referred to as an 'axle' or at times an 'axle housing.' An even broader sense of the word refers to 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 called 'an axle.'

In a wheeled motor vehicle, axles are an important component. With a live-axle suspension system, the axles function to be able to transmit driving torque to the wheel. The axles even maintain the position of the wheels relative to one another and to the motor vehicle body. In this system the axles should also be able to support the weight of the motor vehicle along with whichever cargo. In a non-driving axle, like the front beam axle in various two-wheel drive light trucks and vans and in heavy-duty trucks, there will be no shaft. The axle in this situation works only as a steering component and as suspension. Lots of front wheel drive cars consist of a solid rear beam axle.

There are other types of suspension systems wherein the axles serve only to transmit driving torque to the wheels. The position and angle of the wheel hubs is a function of the suspension system. This is usually seen in the independent suspension seen in most brand new SUV's, on the front of several light trucks and on nearly all new cars. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have attached axle housing tubes. It can be fixed to the motor 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.

Last of all, with regards to a motor vehicle, 'axle,' has a more ambiguous description. It means parallel wheels on opposing sides of the motor vehicle, regardless of their mechanical connection kind to one another and the motor vehicle frame or body.