Forklift Steer Axles

Steer Axle for Forklift - The definition of an axle is a central shaft used for rotating a wheel or a gear. Where wheeled vehicles are concerned, the axle itself can be attached to the wheels and revolve together 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 may be attached to its surroundings and the wheels may in turn revolve around the axle. In this particular situation, a bearing or bushing is positioned within the hole within the wheel to enable the gear or wheel to revolve all-around the axle.

Whenever referring to cars and trucks, 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 rotates together with the wheel. It is usually bolted in fixed relation to it and called an 'axle shaft' or an 'axle.' It is also true that the housing around it that is normally referred to as a casting is also known 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. Therefore, even transverse pairs of wheels in an independent suspension are frequently called 'an axle.'

The axles are an important part in a wheeled vehicle. The axle serves so as 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 particular system the axles should even be able to bear the weight of the vehicle plus any cargo. In a non-driving axle, like for instance 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 condition serves just as a steering part and as suspension. Lots of front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

There are different types of suspension systems wherein the axles serve 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 normally found in the independent suspension found in most new sports utility vehicles, on the front of several light trucks and on the majority of brand new cars. These systems still have a differential but it does not have fixed axle housing tubes. It can be attached to the vehicle body or frame or even can be integral in a transaxle. The axle shafts then transmit driving torque to the wheels. The shafts in an independent suspension system are similar to a full floating axle system as in they do not support the motor vehicle weight.

Last but not least, 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 vehicle body or frame.