Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - The classification of an axle is a central shaft utilized for revolving a gear or a wheel. Where wheeled motor vehicles are concerned, the axle itself can be connected to the wheels and turn along with them. In this case, bearings or bushings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. Conversely, the axle can be fixed to its surroundings and the wheels may in turn revolve around the axle. In this particular situation, a bushing or bearing is situated within the hole within the wheel to allow the gear or wheel to rotate around the axle.

With trucks and cars, the word axle in several references is used casually. The word usually means shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself turns along with the wheel. It is normally bolted in fixed relation to it and known as an 'axle shaft' or an 'axle.' It is also true that the housing around it which is generally known as a casting is likewise known as an 'axle' or sometimes an 'axle housing.' An even broader definition 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 within an independent suspension are generally known as 'an axle.'

The axles are an essential part in a wheeled motor 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 should even be able to support the weight of the vehicle plus 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 condition serves just as a steering component and as suspension. A lot of front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

There are various kinds of suspension systems wherein the axles function 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 found in most brand new SUV's, 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 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 similar to a full floating axle system as in they do not support the vehicle weight.

Last but not least, in reference to a motor vehicle, 'axle,' has a more vague description. It means parallel wheels on opposing sides of the vehicle, regardless of their mechanical connection type to one another and the motor vehicle frame or body.