

Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - The description of an axle is a central shaft meant for turning a wheel or a gear. Where wheeled motor vehicles are concerned, the axle itself may be fixed to the wheels and turn together with them. In this case, 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 instance, a bushing or bearing is placed within the hole inside the wheel to enable the wheel or gear to revolve all-around the axle.

With trucks and cars, the word axle in some references is utilized casually. The word generally refers to the shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself revolves with the wheel. It is frequently bolted in fixed relation to it and called an 'axle' or an 'axle shaft'. It is also true that the housing around it which is usually called a casting is otherwise referred to as an 'axle' or at times an 'axle housing.' An even broader definition of the term means every transverse pair of wheels, whether they are attached to one another or they are not. Therefore, even transverse pairs of wheels inside an independent suspension are generally known as 'an axle.'

In a wheeled motor vehicle, axles are an essential component. With a live-axle suspension system, the axles serve so as to transmit driving torque to the wheel. The axles likewise maintain the position of the wheels relative to one another and to the vehicle body. In this particular system the axles must also be able to bear the weight of the vehicle plus whichever load. In a non-driving axle, as in the front beam axle in several two-wheel drive light vans and trucks and in heavy-duty trucks, there will be no shaft. The axle in this particular situation works only as a steering component and as suspension. Several front wheel drive cars consist of a solid rear beam axle.

The axle serves just to transmit driving torque to the wheels in several types of suspension systems. The angle and position of the wheel hubs is part of the functioning of the suspension system found in the independent suspensions of newer sports utility vehicles and on the front of many brand new light trucks and cars. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have attached axle housing tubes. It could 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 like a full floating axle system as in they do not support the motor vehicle weight.

The motor vehicle axle has a more ambiguous definition, meaning that the parallel wheels on opposing sides of the motor vehicle, regardless of their kind of mechanical connection to one another.