

Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - Axles are defined by a central shaft which rotates a gear or a wheel. The axle on wheeled vehicles can be connected to the wheels and rotated together with them. In this instance, bushings or bearings 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 all-around the axle. In this situation, a bearing or bushing is placed inside the hole inside the wheel so as to allow the gear or wheel to turn around the axle.

Whenever referring to cars and trucks, several references to the word axle co-occur in casual usage. Usually, the term means the shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself revolves together 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 usually referred to as 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 in an independent suspension are generally known as 'an axle.'

In a wheeled motor vehicle, axles are an integral component. With a live-axle suspension system, the axles function 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 system the axles should even be able to bear the weight of the vehicle plus whichever cargo. In a non-driving axle, like for example the front beam axle in various 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. Several front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

The axle works only to transmit driving torque to the wheels in some types of suspension systems. The position and angle of the wheel hubs is part of the operating of the suspension system found in the independent suspensions of new sports utility vehicles and on the front of several new light trucks and cars. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have attached axle housing tubes. It can be attached to the vehicle body or frame or also 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.

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