

Steer Axles for Forklift

Forklift Steer Axle - The description of an axle is a central shaft meant for revolving a gear or a wheel. Where wheeled vehicles are concerned, the axle itself may be attached to the wheels and revolve with them. In this particular case, bushings or bearings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. Conversely, the axle can be attached to its surroundings and the wheels can in turn revolve all-around the axle. In this situation, a bearing or bushing is located in the hole inside the wheel to enable the wheel or gear to revolve all-around the axle.

Whenever referring to cars and trucks, some 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 turns with the wheel. It is normally bolted in fixed relation to it and known as an 'axle' or an 'axle shaft'. It is equally true that the housing surrounding it that is normally called a casting is also known as an 'axle' or at times an 'axle housing.' An even broader sense of the term refers to every transverse pair of wheels, whether they are connected to one another or they are not. Therefore, even transverse pairs of wheels within an independent suspension are frequently called 'an axle.'

In a wheeled vehicle, axles are an important component. With a live-axle suspension system, the axles serve to be able to transmit driving torque to the wheel. The axles also maintain the position of the wheels relative to one another and to the motor vehicle body. In this system the axles must even be able to bear the weight of the vehicle together with any load. In a non-driving axle, like for example the front beam axle in various two-wheel drive light vans and trucks and in heavy-duty trucks, there would be no shaft. The axle in this situation serves only as a steering component and as suspension. Various front wheel drive cars have a solid rear beam axle.

There are various types of suspension systems where the axles operate just 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 nearly all new SUV's, on the front of many light trucks and on most new cars. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have fixed axle housing tubes. It can be attached to the vehicle frame or body or also 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.

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