

Steer Axle for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - The classification of an axle is a central shaft used for rotating a wheel or a gear. Where wheeled vehicles are concerned, the axle itself could be fixed to the wheels and turn together with them. In this particular instance, bearings or bushings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. On the other hand, the axle may be fixed to its surroundings and the wheels can in turn turn around the axle. In this case, a bearing or bushing is situated in the hole within the wheel to enable the wheel or gear to turn around the axle.

With trucks and cars, the term axle in several references is used casually. The term normally means shaft itself, a transverse pair of wheels or its housing. The shaft itself rotates together with the wheel. It is frequently bolted in fixed relation to it and referred to as an 'axle shaft' or an 'axle.' It is equally true that the housing surrounding it that is usually known as a casting is also called an 'axle' or sometimes an 'axle housing.' An even broader sense of the term refers to 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 often referred to as 'an axle.'

In a wheeled motor vehicle, axles are an essential component. With a live-axle suspension system, the axles function 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 system the axles should even be able to bear the weight of the vehicle together with whichever load. In a non-driving axle, as in the front beam axle in various two-wheel drive light vans and trucks and in heavy-duty trucks, there will be no shaft. The axle in this particular condition serves just as a steering part and as suspension. Several front wheel drive cars consist of a solid rear beam axle.

There are other kinds of suspension systems where 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 often seen in the independent suspension seen in nearly all brand new SUV's, on the front of numerous light trucks and on most new cars. These systems still consist of a differential but it does not have connected axle housing tubes. It can be fixed to the 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.

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