Steer Axles for Forklifts

Forklift Steer Axle - The definition of an axle is a central shaft used for turning a wheel or a gear. Where wheeled motor vehicles are concerned, the axle itself can be connected to the wheels and turn along with them. In this situation, bushings or bearings are provided at the mounting points where the axle is supported. Conversely, the axle may be attached to its surroundings and the wheels may in turn rotate all-around the axle. In this particular instance, a bushing or bearing is positioned in the hole inside the wheel to enable the gear or wheel to turn all-around the axle.

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

In a wheeled vehicle, axles are an integral component. With a live-axle suspension system, the axles work so as to transmit driving torque to the wheel. The axles also maintain the position of the wheels relative to one another and to the vehicle body. In this particular system the axles should also be able to bear the weight of the vehicle plus any cargo. 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 situation serves only as a steering component and as suspension. Numerous front wheel drive cars consist of a solid rear beam axle.

The axle serves only to transmit driving torque to the wheels in some kinds 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 newer SUVs and on the front of numerous brand new light trucks and cars. These systems still have a differential but it does not have attached axle housing tubes. It can be connected to the motor vehicle body or frame 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 like a full floating axle system as in they do not support the vehicle weight.

To finish, with regards to a 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 body or frame.