

# Polar F6™

User Manual

**POLAR**®  
*LISTEN TO YOUR BODY*

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# 1. GETTING STARTED

## Get to Know Your Polar F6

**Wrist Unit** displays and records your heart rate and other exercise data during exercise. Buttons:

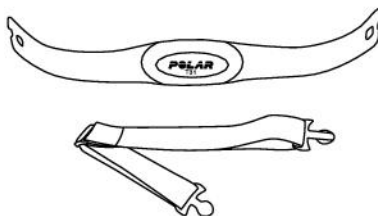
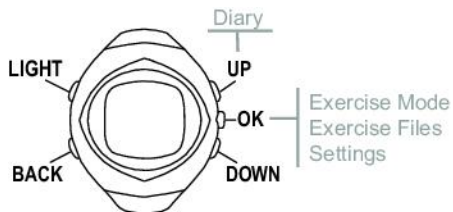
UP/DOWN: Move thru menu and selection lists, and adjust values.

OK: Enter menu and confirm selections.

LIGHT: Illuminate display.

BACK: Exit menu and return to previous level. Cancel selection and leave setting unchanged.

**Transmitter** sends the heart rate signal to the wrist unit. The transmitter consists of a connector and strap.



### Enter Basic Settings

1. To activate your Polar F6, press OK twice. Once activated, it cannot be switched off!
2. **WELCOME TO POLAR FITNESS WORLD** is displayed. Press OK.
3. **START WITH BASIC SETTINGS** is displayed. Press OK.
4. **Time**: Select either 12 H or 24 H.
5. **Date**: Enter date; dd = day, mm = month, yy = year.
6. **Units**: metric (KG/CM) or imperial (LB/FT). By selecting LB/FT, calories are displayed as Cal, otherwise they are shown as kcal.
7. **Weight**: Enter your weight. To change units, press and hold LIGHT.
8. **Height**: Enter your height. In LB/FT format, first enter feet then inches.
9. **Birthdate**: Enter your date of birth; dd = day, mm = month, yy = year.
10. **Sex**: Select **MALE** or **FEMALE**.
11. **SETTINGS OK?** is displayed. **YES**: settings are accepted and saved. The display returns to Time mode. **NO**: Basic settings can still be changed.

Press BACK to return to the data you want to change.

After saving the basic settings, the F6 enters Time mode.

## 2. BEFORE EXERCISE

### Wear the Transmitter

Wear the transmitter to measure heart rate.

1. Attach one end of the transmitter to the elastic strap.
2. Adjust the transmitter's strap length to fit snugly and comfortably. Secure the strap around your chest, just below the chest muscles, and buckle the strap to the transmitter.
3. Lift the transmitter off your chest and moisten the two grooved electrode areas on the back. Check that the wet electrode areas are firmly against your skin and that the Polar logo is in a central, upright position.



## 3. DURING EXERCISE

### Record Your Exercise

1. Wear the transmitter and wrist unit. Start heart rate measurement by pressing OK. Preferably, there should be no other heart rate monitors nearby (within 1m / 3ft) to avoid interference.
2. Within 15 seconds, your heart rate appears on the display.
3. Press OK. Record the exercise session by selecting **START** and pressing OK. You can adjust Exercise settings by selecting **SETTINGS**. For more information, see page 18.
4. Press **BACK** to stop recording. Select **EXIT** to view an exercise summary.

### Troubleshooting:

- Your exercise information is saved only if the stopwatch has been on for more than one minute.
- **OwnZone** > Your heart rate monitor has started to determine your target heart rate zone automatically. Skip the process by pressing OK. In this case, if you have not determined your OwnZone before, your age-based heart rate limits are used. For more information on determining OwnZone, see page 19.
- **START WITH BASIC SETTINGS** > Press OK to complete your Basic settings.

## Buttons During Exercise

### LIGHT

- Press once and the display will light up with every button press.
- Press and hold to lock or unlock buttons.

### BACK

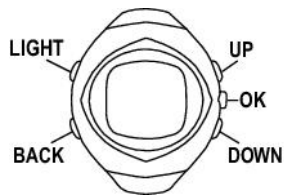
- Pause / exit exercise recording.

### UP / DOWN

- Change exercise mode view.
- Press and hold UP to customize Exercise and Calories views. Choose the upper row information from Time of day, Calories/Stopwatch and Fitness bullets. A fitness bullet appears for every 10 minutes in the target zone equaling one hour in total if all the bullets appear.

### OK

- Press and hold to change exercise settings without pausing the exercise recording.



*Bring the wrist unit near the transmitter to see the time of day in Exercise mode.*

## Views During Exercise

View combinations of exercise data. Switch displays with **UP/DOWN**.



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### Exercise

Stopwatch  
Heart rate



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### Calories

The calories expended  
Heart rate



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**InZone** view is only displayed when you have set heart rate limits active.

InZone symbol and time spent in zone\*  
Lower / upper limit values and Zone Pointer  
Heart rate

\*Smiley face means that OwnZone determination was succesful.



## Stop Recording and View Summary

Press **BACK** to pause exercise recording. Select **EXIT** to stop recording and to view a **Summary** of your exercise session:



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### Summary

Exercise duration (hh.mm.ss)

Calories burned during exercise (Cal/kcal)

The maximum (max) and average (avg) heart rate of the exercise session (bpm/%HR<sub>max</sub>) alternate



*For more facts and know-how to enhance your training, visit Polar Article Library. <http://articles.polar.fi>*

## 4. AFTER EXERCISE

### Diary

In the Diary, you can compare achieved exercise duration, quantity and calories in different intensity zones to your target values. Diary contains data for the current calendar week only, and records exercise data only if the session lasts at least ten minutes.

To enter Diary, on Time display, press UP.




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#### Diary

The three bars stand for exercise count (**#**), exercise time (**B**) and expended calories (**c**). Press OK and UP/DOWN to examine more details.




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#### Exe.Count / Exe.Time / Calories

Weekly target exercise count/duration/calories (The relevant bar is highlighted.)  
The total exercise count/duration/expended calories you have achieved  
Press BACK to return the Diary view. Press DOWN to enter the HR zones view.

**HR zones**

The three bars stand for Light, Moderate and Hard heart rate zone. Press OK and UP/DOWN to examine more details.

**Light / Moderate / Hard**

Your target exercise duration in concerned zone

The relevant bar is highlighted

The exercise duration in zone

Note: When you press BACK to return to the Diary or HR zones view, the value you last viewed will be set as a default value on the bottom row of the Diary or HR zones view.

## Follow-Up

Every Sunday at midnight, your Polar F6 automatically reviews your progress, resets the Diary and Heart Rate Zone views, saves Diary data to Weekly File and reminds you to check your Diary with an envelope symbol.

To open the reminder, press UP and OK.



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### Result

Total exercise count of the last week

Total exercise duration

Total calories burned while exercising (Cal/kcal)

## Files

### Daily File

Select **File** > **DAILY**

In the Daily File, view detailed exercise information from your 12 most recent exercise sessions.

When the File becomes full, the oldest information is replaced by the most recent. To save the exercise data for a longer period, transfer the file to the [polarpersonaltrainer.com](http://polarpersonaltrainer.com) web service. For more information, see page 17.



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#### Exercise

Each bar represents a session. The higher the bar the longer the exercise.

Date of the exercise

## ENGLISH

Select an exercise you wish to view with UP/DOWN and OK.



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### Duration

Time session started

Exercise duration (hh.mm.ss)



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### Calories

Calories expended while exercising (Cal/kcal)

Fat percentage of the burned calories



### Heart Rate

Maximum (**Max**) and average (**Avg**) heart rate in beats per minute alternate with the percentage of maximum heart rate reading



**Time in Zone** view is only displayed if HR limits were set on.

Heart rate limits

Exercise duration between heart rate limits

To delete a Daily File, press and hold LIGHT in **Duration** view until **DELETE FILE?** is displayed. Select **YES**. **ARE YOU SURE?** is displayed. Confirm deletion with **YES**.

## ENGLISH

### Weekly File and Totals File

Select **File** > **WEEKLY** or **TOTALS**

In the Weekly and Totals Files, you can view exercise count, duration, and burned calories from the last 12 weeks or starting from the previous reset.



#### Weekly File

**EXE.COUNT / EXE.TIME / CALOREIS / HR ZONES**

The last Sunday of the selected week

The height of a bar indicates the week's total exercises / exercise time / expended calories / time spent in target zones

Cumulative count for the week's total exercises / exercise time / expended calories / time spent in target zones\*

\* Press OK to view the exercise duration in different intensity zones.



#### Totals File

**Total Exe.Count / Duration / Calories**

The last reset date

Total cumulative exercise / duration / expended calories count, starting from the previous reset

To empty the Totals File, press DOWN until **Reset Total Counters?** is displayed. Press OK and select the information you wish to erase. **ARE YOU SURE?** is displayed. Confirm deletion with **YES**.



## Data Transfer

Your Polar F6 offers two means of data communication with a PC:

- Send data with Polar WebLink™: Transfer data to the polar**personaltrainer**.com web service using Polar WebLink software. For this you need to register for polarpersonaltrainer.com web service. You will find detailed instructions on how to send data at Polar WebLink's Help file.
- Receive data with Polar UpLink™ Tool: Edit settings and upload logos from a PC to your wrist unit using Polar UpLink Tool software.

For more information about system requirements, see page 30. To download the Polar WebLink and Polar UpLink Tool free of charge visit [www.polar.fi](http://www.polar.fi).

## 5. SETTINGS

### Exercise Settings

Select **Exercise** > **SETTINGS**

- **HR ALARM:** Adjust the target zone alarm sound volume.
- **HR LIMITS:** You can choose to exercise from four different heart rate limits:
  1. **OWNZONE:** The wrist unit determines your individual target heart rate zone automatically in the beginning of every exercise. Select **HARD**, **MODERATE**, **LIGHT** or **BASIC** intensity for your OwnZone.
  2. **AUTOMATIC:** Limits are determined using an age-based formula (220 minus age). Choose **HARD**, **MODERATE**, **LIGHT** or **BASIC**. Make sure you have entered the correct date of birth in User Settings!
  3. **MANUAL:** Set your target heart rate limits manually.
  4. For exercise without any given limits, select **OFF**.

- **HR VIEW:** Select **HR** to display your heart rate in beats per minute (bpm) or **HR%** to view a percentage of maximum heart rate.

Choose your OwnZone or Automatic heart rate limits from four exercise intensities:

- **HARD** (80-90% HR<sub>max</sub>) is for a relatively short exercise at high intensity.
- **MODERATE** (70-80% HR<sub>max</sub>) is effective particularly for improving aerobic fitness. It is recommended for people exercising regularly.
- **LIGHT** (60-70% HR<sub>max</sub>) is good for improving health and fitness. It also improves basic endurance and helps you to recover from heavier exercise.
- **BASIC** (65-85% HR<sub>max</sub>) is suitable for aerobic intensity exercise.

## OwnZone

Your Polar F6 automatically determines your individual and safe exercise intensity zone, your OwnZone. The function guides you through warm-up. Your OwnZone limits may vary daily, depending on your physical and mental condition.

You can select an exercise intensity from four different heart rate zones: Light, Moderate, Hard, and Basic. For more information on exercise intensities, see page 18.

It is advisable to use OwnZone every time you exercise, or at least,

- When changing exercise environment or exercise mode.
- When taking up exercise after more than a week's break.
- If you are feeling unusual. For example, if you are not recovered from previous exercise, not feeling well or are stressed.
- After changing your user settings.

OwnZone has been developed for healthy persons. Some health conditions may cause heart rate variability-based OwnZone determination to fail, e.g. high blood pressure, certain cardiac arrhythmias, and some medication. In such cases, your age-based limits will be used for OwnZone determination.

## ENGLISH

### Determining Your OwnZone

Find your OwnZone limits in 1-5 minutes during warm-up by walking, jogging, or doing some other sport. Before you start, make sure that your User settings are correct and the OwnZone function is activated.

1. Start recording the exercise. The OwnZone symbol appears on the display and determination begins. The process is carried out in five stages. A beep will signal the end of each stage. Avoid stopping during OwnZone determination.
  - **OZ**> Walk at a slow pace for 1 min. Keep your heart rate below 100 bpm/ 50%  $HR_{max}$  during this first stage.
  - **OZ**>> Walk at a normal pace for 1 min. Smoothly increase your heart rate about 10 bpm/ 5%  $HR_{max}$ .
  - **OZ**>>> Walk at a brisk pace for 1 min. Smoothly increase your heart rate about 10 bpm/ 5%  $HR_{max}$ .

- **OZ**>>> Jog at a slow pace for 1 min. Smoothly increase your heart rate about 10 bpm/ 5%  $HR_{max}$ .
  - **OZ**>>>> Jog at brisk pace or run for 1 min.
2. When you hear two, consecutive beeps, your OwnZone has been determined. **OwnZone Updated** alternates with the heart rate limits on the display after a successful determination. If OwnZone determination fails, **OwnZone Limits** and your previous OwnZone limits will appear on the display. If OwnZone has not previously been determined, age-based limits will be used.
  3. Proceed with your exercise. Try to stay inside the given heart rate zone to maximize exercise benefits.

## Other Settings

### WATCH settings

Select **Settings** > **WATCH**

- **TIMER**: Set the countdown timer to sound once. Restart the timer by pressing and holding OK while it is running, or stop it by pressing BACK. To hide the running timer, press and hold UP.
- **ALARM**: Set the alarm to sound **DAILY**, from Monday to Friday (**MON-FRI**) or turn it **OFF**. The alarm functions in all modes except in Exercise mode. Press BACK to stop the alarm or OK to snooze for 10 minutes.
- **TIME** : Set time of day.
- **DATE**: Set the date.

### HR SET (Heart rate settings)

Select **Settings** > **HR SET**

- **HR ALARM**: Select **VOL 2** (loud), **VOL 1** (quiet), or alarm **OFF**.
- **HR VIEW**: Select **HR** (beats per minute), or **HR%** (a percentage of your maximum heart rate).

## ENGLISH

### USER settings

Select **Settings** > **USER**

- **Weight**: To change units press and hold LIGHT.
  - **Height**: To change units press and hold LIGHT.
  - **Birthday**: Adjust your date of birth.
  - **Sex** : Select **MALE** or **FEMALE**.
  - **HR max** (the highest number of heartbeats per minute (bpm) during maximum physical exertion): Change the default value only if you know your laboratory-measured value. For more information, see <http://support.polar.fi>.
  - **HR sit**: Your typical heart rate when you are not doing any physical activity (while sitting). To determine  $HR_{sit}$ , wear your transmitter, sit down and do not engage in any physical activity. After two or three minutes, press OK in Time mode to view your heart rate. This is your  $HR_{sit}$ . For a more precise measurement, repeat the procedure several times and calculate your average.
- **VO2 max** (the maximum capacity for oxygen consumption by your body during maximum exertion): Change the default value only if you know your laboratory-measured value. For more information, see <http://support.polar.fi>.

**GENERAL** settings

Select **Settings** > **GENERAL**

- **SOUND:** Adjust button and activity sounds; **VOL 2** (loud), **VOL 1** (quiet), or **OFF** (no sounds).
- **KEYLOCK:** To lock or unlock buttons **MANUAL**ly, press and hold LIGHT. **AUTOMATIC** keylock is activated when you have not pressed the buttons for a minute.
- **UNITS:** Select metric (**KG/CM**) or imperial (**LB/FT**) units.

## 6. CUSTOMER SERVICE INFORMATION

### Caring for Your Heart Rate Monitor

**Heart Rate Monitor, Transmitter:** Keep in a cool and dry place. Do not store in a damp environment, in non-breathable material (a plastic bag or a sports bag) or with conductive material (a wet towel). Do not expose to direct sunlight for extended periods.

Clean with a mild soap and water solution, dry with towel. Never use alcohol or any abrasive material (steel wool or cleaning chemicals).

**Strap:** Rinse with water after every use. Wash after swimming. If used regularly, wash at least once every three weeks in a washing machine at 40°C / 104°F. Use a washing pouch. Do not soak, and use neither detergent with bleach nor fabric softener. Do not dry-clean, spin-dry or iron.

**Service:** Your Polar F6 Heart Rate Monitor is designed to help you achieve your personal fitness goals, indicate the level of physiological strain and

intensity during an exercise session. No other use is intended nor implied.

During the two-year guarantee/warranty period we recommend that you service your equipment at authorized Polar Service Center only. The warranty does not cover damage or consequential damage caused by service not authorized by Polar Electro.



**Changing Wrist Unit Batteries:** Do not open the wrist unit yourself. To ensure water resistance properties and the use of qualified components, the wrist unit battery should be replaced by an authorized Polar Service Center only. A full periodic check of the heart rate monitor will be done when changing batteries.

The low battery symbol will appear when 10-15% of the battery capacity is left. The backlight and sounds are automatically deactivated. Excessive use of the backlight drains the battery more rapidly. In cold conditions, the low battery indicator may appear, and disappear again when you return to a warmer environment.

**Changing Transmitter Batteries:** If you suspect that the transmitter battery has run out, contact your authorized Polar Service Center for a replacement transmitter. Polar recycles used transmitters.

## Precautions

### Minimizing Possible Risks

Exercise may include some risk. Before beginning a regular exercise program, answer the following questions concerning your health status. If you answer yes to any of these questions, consult a doctor before starting any training program.

- Have you been physically inactive for the past 5 years?
- Do you have high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol?
- Do you have symptoms of any disease?
- Are you taking any blood pressure or heart medication?
- Do you have a history of breathing problems?
- Are you recovering from a serious illness or medical treatment?
- Do you use a pacemaker or other implanted electronic device?
- Do you smoke?
- Are you pregnant?

## ENGLISH

Note that in addition to exercise intensity, medications for heart conditions, blood pressure, psychological conditions, asthma, breathing, etc., as well as some energy drinks, alcohol, and nicotine may also affect heart rate.

**It is important to be sensitive to your body's responses during exercise.** If you feel unexpected pain or excessive fatigue when exercising, stop or continue at a lighter intensity.

**If you have a pacemaker, defibrillator or other implanted electronic devices,** use the Polar heart rate monitor at your own risk. Before starting use, take a maximal exercise stress test under a doctor's supervision. The test is to ensure the safety and reliability of the simultaneous use of the pacemaker and the Polar heart rate monitor.

**If you are allergic to any substance that comes into contact with your skin or if you suspect an allergic reaction due to using the product,** check the listed materials in Technical Specifications. To avoid any skin reaction to the transmitter, wear it over a shirt. Moisten the shirt well under the

electrodes to ensure flawless operation.

The combined impact of moisture and intense abrasion may cause a black color to come off the transmitter's surface, possibly staining light-colored clothes.

If you use insect repellent on your skin, make sure that it does not come into contact with the transmitter.

**When in non-coded mode, the wrist unit picks up transmitter signals within 1 m / 3ft.** The frame around the heart symbol on the bottom of the display indicates that transmission is coded. Coding blocks interference from nearby heart rate monitors.

**Polar F6 may be worn when swimming.** To maintain water resistance, do not press buttons under water. See further information at [support.polar.fi](http://support.polar.fi).

Water resistance of Polar products is tested according to International Standard ISO 2281. Products are divided into three categories according to their water resistance. Check the back of your Polar product for the water resistance category, and compare it to the chart below. Please note that these definitions do not necessarily apply to products of other manufacturers.

Marking on the case back	Wash splashes, sweat, raindrops etc.	Bathing and swimming	Skin diving with snorkel (no air tanks)	SCUBA diving (with air tanks)	Water resistant characteristics
Water resistant	x	-	-	-	Splashes, raindrops etc.
Water resistant 50m	x	x	-	-	Minimum for bathing and swimming
Water resistant 100m	x	x	x	-	For frequent use in water but not SCUBA diving

## ENGLISH

**Electromagnetic disturbances may occur** near high-voltage power lines, traffic lights, overhead lines of electric railways, electric bus lines or trams, televisions, car motors, bike computers, some motor driven exercise equipment, cellular phones, or at electric security gates. To avoid erratic readings, move away from possible sources of disturbance.

**Exercise equipment with electronic components may cause interfering stray signals.** To tackle these problems, try the following:

1. Remove the transmitter from your chest and use the exercise equipment as you would normally.
2. Move the wrist unit around until you find an area in which it displays no stray reading or does not flash the heart symbol. Interference is often worst right in front of the display panel of the equipment, while the left or right side of the display is relatively free of disturbance.
3. Put the transmitter back on your chest and keep the wrist unit in this interference-free area as much as possible.

If the heart rate monitor still does not work, the piece of equipment may be electrically too noisy for wireless heart rate measurement.

## Troubleshooting

**If you don't know where you are in the menu,** press and hold BACK until the time is displayed.

**If there are no reactions to any buttons, reset the wrist unit** by pressing all the buttons simultaneously for two seconds. All other settings except time and date will be saved.

**If the heart rate reading becomes erratic, extremely high or shows nil (00),** make sure no other heart rate transmitter is within 1 m/3 ft, and that the transmitter strap fits snugly and the electrodes of the transmitter are moistened, clean and undamaged.

Strong electromagnetic signals can cause erratic readings. If the abnormal reading continues despite moving away from the source of disturbance, slow down and check your pulse manually. If you feel it corresponds to the high reading on the display, you may be experiencing cardiac arrhythmia. Most cases of arrhythmia are not serious, but consult your doctor nevertheless.

A cardiac event may have altered your ECG waveform. In this case, consult your physician.

If heart rate measurement does not work despite the actions mentioned previously, the battery of your transmitter may be empty. For further information, see chapter Caring for Your Heart Rate Monitor.

## ENGLISH

### Technical Specification

#### Wrist Unit

Battery type	CR 2032
Battery life	Average 1.5 years (1 h/day, 7 days/week exercise)
Operating temperature	-10 °C to +50 °C / 14 °F to 122 °F
Wrist strap material	Polyurethane
Back cover and wrist strap buckle	Stainless steel complying with the EU Directive 94/27/EU and amendment 1999/C 205/05 on the release of nickel from products intended to come into direct and prolonged contact with the skin.
Watch accuracy	Better than $\pm 0.5$ seconds/day at 25 °C / 77 °F temperature.
Accuracy of heart rate measurement	$\pm 1\%$ or $\pm 1$ bpm, whichever larger, definition applies to steady state conditions.

#### Transmitter

Battery type	Built-in Lithium Cell
Battery life	Average 2500 hours
Operating temperature	-10 °C to +50 °C / 14 °F to 122 °F
Transmitter material	Polyamide

Strap material	Buckle: Polyurethane, Fabric: Nylon 46 %, polyester 32%, natural rubber (latex) 22%
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#### Limit values

Chronometer	23 h 59 min 59 s
Heart rate	30 - 199 bpm
Total time	0 - 9999 h 59 min 59 s
Total calories	0 - 999999 kcal/Cal
Total exercise count	65 535
Birthday	1921 - 2020

#### System Requirements

Polar WebLink	PC, Windows® 98/98SE/ME/2000/XP/Vista, Sound card, Microphone
Polar UpLink Tool	PC, Windows® 98/98SE/ME/2000/XP/Vista, Sound card, Dynamic loudspeakers or headphones

## Guarantee and Disclaimer

### Limited Polar International Guarantee

This limited Polar international guarantee is issued by Polar Electro Inc. for the consumers who have purchased this product in the USA or Canada. This limited Polar international guarantee is issued by Polar Electro Oy for the consumers who have purchased this product in other countries.

Polar Electro Inc. / Polar Electro Oy guarantees to the original consumer/ purchaser of this product that the product will be free from defects in material or workmanship for two years from the date of purchase.

### **Please keep the receipt or stamped Polar Customer Service Card, which is your proof of purchase!**

The guarantee does not cover the battery, damage due to misuse, abuse, accidents or non-compliance with the precautions; improper maintenance, commercial use, cracked or broken cases.

The guarantee does not cover any damage/s, losses, costs or expenses, direct, indirect or incidental, consequential or special, arising out of, or related to the product. During the guarantee period the product will either be repaired or replaced at an authorized service center free of charge.

This guarantee does not affect the consumer's statutory rights under applicable national or state laws in force, or the consumer's rights against the dealer arising from their sales/ purchase contract.

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### Disclaimer

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# CE 0537

This product is compliant with Directive 93/42/EEC. The relevant Declaration of Conformity is available at [www.support.polar.fi/declaration\\_of\\_conformity](http://www.support.polar.fi/declaration_of_conformity).



Polar products are electronic devices and are in the scope of Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). These products should thus be disposed of separately in EU countries. Polar encourages you to minimize possible effects of waste on the environment and human health also outside the European Union by following local waste disposal regulations and, where possible, utilize separate collection of electronic devices.



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