



History – C50 Range to Polestar to Polestar Compact

In the late 1980's Crabtree were looking to replace the outdated (but still widely used) C50 range. They came up with the Polestar range and it was a great success in commercial and industrial applications.

The Polestar range of breakers was unique because they had a higher than usual fault rating of 16kA where standard breakers at the time were 6kA and 9kA. What this meant was that Polestar could be used in areas where a high kA was required without having to use Moulded Case Breakers (MCCB's) or HRC fuse carriers. Polestar MCB's were also unique in that they had a much wider (25mm) than a standard MCB (18mm). This extra width was needed for the bigger arc splitter to allow for a higher kA rating.

Initially the range was made to BS3871 standards so Types 2 & 3 were available from 6A up to 63A in single and triple pole. RCBO's were also available but they were initially referred to as MCB/RCD units as the term RCBO was not really established yet.

After 1994 the British Standard of BS60898 came into effect and the range was changed to Types B, C & D and now included double pole MCB's as well. RCBO's were now being widely used, and these were available in Types B and C although it's rare to see Type B in use as most installations were commercial.

Crabtree manufactured the Polestar range until around the early 2000's then it was phased out. They did hold quite a bit of stock, but this was largely held for TFL (Transport for London) as part of an agreement to hold stocks for spares and ongoing developments etc.

A new range of Polestar was launched in 2012 and called **Polestar Compact**. Although the new range is 16kA rated due to advances in technology it was significantly slimmer and is **not** interchangeable with the older style.