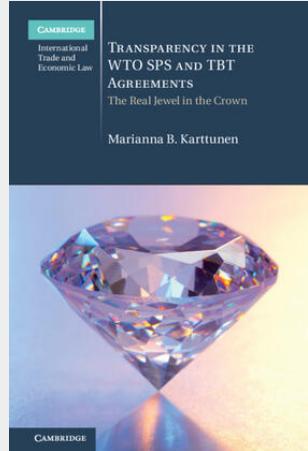


Karttunen

## Transparency in the Wto Sps and Tbt Agreements

The Real Jewel in the Crown

Transparency of trade regulations by all WTO Members is essential for open, fair and predictable trade relations. A myriad of different regulations apply in all WTO Members and have the potential for affecting international trade. The Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and on Technical Barriers to Trade provide the most comprehensive frameworks in the WTO to address the costs arising from such regulatory diversity, through obligations on regulatory transparency and co-operation. This book gives a detailed account of the legal disciplines of the two Agreements, an in-depth presentation of discussions between WTO Members, and an overview of the few cases that end up in formal dispute settlement. It shows that the strength of the WTO legal and institutional system goes well beyond its dispute settlement system, with transparency enabling implementation of WTO obligations through better information sharing and co-operation among Members themselves, through non-judicial means.



**138,50 €**  
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*Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage*

**Artikelnummer:** 9781108486453  
**Medium:** Buch  
**ISBN:** 978-1-108-48645-3  
**Verlag:** Cambridge University Press  
**Erscheinungstermin:** 04.06.2020  
**Sprache(n):** Englisch  
**Auflage:** Erscheinungsjahr 2020  
**Serie:** Cambridge International Trade and Economic Law  
**Produktform:** Gebunden  
**Gewicht:** 590 g  
**Seiten:** 328  
**Format (B x H):** 165 x 231 mm

